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ST. GEORGE, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1911

NO. 32.

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D. BASSEN

British Preference Remains.

When Mr. Austin Chamberlain announces the reciprocity agreement with the United States inflicts a serious blow upon British trade he affords evidence that he does not understand the trade situation in Canada. The declaration of Sir Walfred Laurier that the British preference remains the cardinal feature of the liberal trade policy deserved more consideration at the hands of Mr. Chamberlain. In no spirit of huckstering or bargaining, but as an evidence of good-will and affection toward the motherland, Canada reduced the duties on British goods fourteen years ago. That preference was increased from time to time until at the present moment the greater part of our imports from Britain pay one-third less duty than similar imports from foreign countries. On some things, such as various classes of iron and steel, the preference is actually forty per cent. The reciprocity agreement with the United States, which deals almost entirely with natural products and certain manufactured articles, such as farm implements, which do not come into competition with British goods, leaves the British preference as it was.

How, then, can Mr. Chamberlain assert with any degree of truth that the agreement will hurt British trade? As a matter of fact, it should materially hurt British trade. If the farming, lumbering, mining, and fishing population of Canada—which still constitutes a large majority of the total—obtains better prices as a result of the free admission into the United States of the products of the farm, forest, mine, and fisheries its purchasing power will be increased and it will be enabled to import more textiles and similar British goods. A prosperous and rapidly developing Canada cannot fall under preferential trade conditions to buy increasing quantities of British products.

We have seen very little on this side of the Atlantic to indicate a fear that imports from Great Britain would be reduced under the operation of the reciprocity agreement. The fear is rather that East and West trade would be menaced by the failure of our exports to Great Britain. The opponents of reciprocity hold

that the wheat and cattle and dairy products that now go to the British market would go to the south, and that the East and West trade would shrivel into insignificance. Yet along side of such arguments one may find such statements as this—

"The officials of the Department of Immigration say the volume of immigration this season will break all records. All the vessels sailing from British ports are booked to their capacity in second and third class for March, April and May."

Similar items regarding immigration from the United States may be noticed almost daily. Careful officials not prone to exaggeration say that the increase of population by immigration this year will be close upon half a million. There never has been in the history of civilization immigration upon such a scale directed to a nation of Canada's power of absorption. The United States when it had over fifty million people thought a million immigrants a year—or two per cent of its population—a very large volume. Canada absorbed in 1910 over four per cent, and this year expects over six per cent. What are these people going to do? Tens of thousands of them remain in the cities, but the great mass go upon the farms or into the lumber camps or the mines. To them we can safely leave the business of providing wheat and cattle and dairy products for the British market as well as that of the United States. They have no prejudices about where they shall sell their goods. If Lancashire will pay more for their cheese and bacon than New York or New England the cheese and bacon will go across the ocean.

There are not a few Canadians who fear that the restriction of Canada's food exports to Great Britain might strain the Imperial tie. Their views are entitled to sympathetic consideration. Is the situation such as to warrant any fear of material reduction in our export trade to the motherland? The United States almost feeds itself now. Its demand for imported foodstuffs will increase slowly for a few years, although there is no doubt at all that the great cities across the line will within a quarter of a century consume a large proportion of Canada's surplus food products. In the meanwhile, what of the enormous increase in our wheat produc-

tion as a result of the wave of immigration? Our only sufficient market is in Europe, and to Europe it must go. We do not quite appreciate the expansion of our wheat and flour exports as the result of the immigration of the past ten years. Prior to 1902 this country never exported twenty million dollars' worth of wheat in any one crop year. As immigration poured in the exports jumped from twenty to thirty, to forty, and in the year ending March 31, 1910, to \$52,000,000. The value of flour exports increased in the same brief period from less than four to over fourteen million dollars. It is as certain as to-morrow's sunrise that Canada will export over a hundred million dollars' worth of wheat or wheat flour within the next five years. In the face of such a prospect, to talk of the destruction of the Imperial tie and the cutting out of the East and West haul is little short of ridiculous. Canada's wheat production is going to increase so rapidly that we will need all the open markets we can secure for it. And when we dispose of our food products the British preference will enable the motherland to sell us no inconsiderable part of the goods we must import.

The reciprocity agreement and the British preference are not hostile each to the other. They may even become close working partners. It was a far-sighted view to which Sir Richard Cartwright gave expression fourteen years ago when on the introduction of the British preference he said: "It may well be that the United States after a while, after second, sober, better thought, will consent to treat with us and maybe with England on better terms than they have heretofore treated. Sir, I do say that it is a great step, if my proposition is responded to, toward making the British Empire a reality as well as a name. I say that it is a great step toward the federation of all the countries that owe allegiance to the British crown, and I repeat, even at the risk of some misconception, that I am not without hope that in its ultimate issue it may lead to a practical alliance between all the members of the English race."

The frank acceptance by the United States at the Canadian policy of preference to the motherland and the making of a reciprocity agreement that does not interfere with the British preference are events of the utmost importance in world-politics and do much to justify the prophecy of Sir Richard.—*Tor. Globe.*

Clergy in Politics.

A man who becomes a clergyman does not thereby cease to be a citizen, and as such he has the right to vote for the election of public men and to criticize their management of public affairs. Without leaving himself open to any remarks except those prompted by a feeling of compassion he may even become hysterical as one well-known preacher evidently did last Sunday in protesting against a specific measure of public policy which he obviously does not understand. It is the clergyman's right as a citizen to do his own thinking about affairs of State; and to tell his thought to his fellow-citizens in a respectful and persuasive way. But it is not within his right to side with one political party if in doing so he implies and necessary intendment reproaches another political party or makes it appear that it is inherently, inevitably, and incurably irreligious.

A generation ago there was very much of this kind of treatment meted out to the Liberals of the Province Quebec by the great majority of the French-speaking clergy, acting with the connivance, if not at the instigation, of their bishops. Matters went so far that spiritual intimidation was openly practised as a means of defeating Liberal candidates at Par-

liamentary elections. On such a candidate included the practice of spiritual intimidations among the particular embodied in his petition to unseat his opponent who had declared elected, and the Supreme Court of Canada eventually affirmed the illegality of such terrorism as an election device. It was evidently time for the Vatican to interfere for the protection of the reputation and standing of the Church, and a special Papal Delegate was sent to Canada to see that the objectionable practices were discontinued. A great and apparently permanent reform took place, but unfortunately for the Church the objectionable alienation of a large section of the laity has been renewed.

During the past three or four years the old practice of denouncing Liberal newspapers and Liberal politicians, absolutely without reason or justification, has been revived by the clergy, who on the other hand are the open and avowed partisans of the people who call themselves "Nationalists" and whose aims are very reverse of national. They are constantly advising, if not commanding their people to abstain from patronizing certain journals and to give their support to other journals just as respectable. This has gone so far as to be positively dangerous to the Church, and three of the Bishops of the Province of Quebec are said to be issuing in concert "strict orders" to the priests of their respective dioceses, and to the members of religious orders under their guidance to confine themselves in future to their calling, and to the advice of the Holy See, by having nothing whatever to do with any political discussion and by ceasing to show any preference for any political party or faction." These three Bishops are Archbishop Bruchési of Montreal, Bishop Edmond of Valparaiso, and Bishop Archaud of Joliette—all within what is usually designated the Montreal district.

It will be very difficult for the other Bishops of the Province of Quebec to ignore this order after it is published. They will be virtually compelled to either take similar action or openly dissent from it. For any embarrassment to which they may find themselves liable they have themselves entirely to thank. This pernicious interference with political parties as such has already done the Church unspeakable harm, and if it kept up it may eventually create a permanent breach between the people and the Church. The time has passed for the toleration of any self-segregation, and the clergy would well to stamp it with their disapproval. There is too much real "nationalism" in the Canadian people as a whole to admit of provincialism flourishing under an intentionally deceptive misnomer.—*Tor. Globe.*

Edison's Moulded House.

(Hartford Times)

Mr. Edison announces that he has perfected his plan for moulding a concrete house complete, "all in one solid piece, including the cellar, partitions, floors, roof, veranda; in fact, everything except the windows and doors, which are of wood and the only parts of the house which are combustible." Cement men say that the practical difficulties are insuperable, but Mr. Edison has a way of overcoming insuperable difficulties by "finding a way around" them. The typical house would contain six rooms and a bath and would cost only \$1,200, and would give a man for \$10 a month a better home than he now rents for \$25. The advantages would be exemption from fire risk and sanitary qualities, since should a case of contagious or infectious disease take place the walls would afford no harbor for germs and could readily be disinfected. The disadvantages are that the house, which

can be completed in four days, must be built in large numbers and on adjacent areas, since the cast iron moulds are very heavy and must be handled by a derrick. The moving of the moulds and derrick to any one locality would be a matter of considerable expense, which, if divided among fifteen houses, would amount to little. Besides, after taking down the moulds an interval of four days must elapse before the walls set, during which time the workmen must erect others. For these reasons the house cannot be cheaply constructed on a single vacant lot.

Mr. Edison's figures for building 144 houses a year are for each house: Labor and superintendence \$150 Interest and depreciation on construction plant 140 Cement—220 lbs. at \$1.40 310 Steel reinforcement rods 125 Bath and heating 150 Windows, doors and finishing 325 Average per house \$1,200

These items are ample except that for the bath, and the others are high enough to make the total a safe estimate. The house will be prettier and more comfortable than the wooden or brick house at twice the cost. Aside from cheapness and durability the great point is the elimination of the fire risk. Such a house would be good for 500 years. Double the size of the house and the cost is not doubled, and the man earning \$100 a month can easily own or rent a commodious home. Mr. Edison's estimates, however, are for Long Island and New Jersey, for he expects to use the sand removed in excavating the cellar to make his fluid concrete. Further, he must be near an ample supply of water. Taken as a whole the plan seems practicable and if so would be of incalculable benefit to workmen. All honor to the tireless inventor! It is worth mentioning that his estimates cover six sets of cast iron moulds, by combining which the houses can be endlessly varied in appearance and details.

The Best to Outwit the Denizens of the Wild in Cold Weather

In reading the trappers' letters we find different methods for capturing furbearing animals; but most of these are suitable for late autumn and early spring trapping only, and very few can be used in winter trapping, when the creeks are frozen over and the ground covered with snow. It is at this season that furs are at their best, and it is to the trappers' interest to bend every energy in outwitting the denizens of the wild.

As a rule fur game is much more difficult to capture during cold winter weather than earlier in the season. They seem to know that the cold weather makes their hides valuable to the trapper, and they become wary and trap-shy. To be successful at cold weather trapping one must use the utmost caution in making sets, and leave the surroundings undisturbed, covering the traps with the material that was removed in making the set. A set that would easily take a animal earlier in the season will now arouse his suspicions and cause him to give that particular spot a "wide berth." Water sets are not reliable at this season, as all streams are frozen over except in the swiftest places. These places—or "air holes," as they are called—make excellent sets, however, provided the water isn't too deep. Baits can be used to advantage in cold weather, at times, but they sometimes prove a very poor lure, especially in extreme cold weather, when they freeze and lose a great deal of their alluring odor.

The hollow log makes one of the best cold water sets I know of. These quite frequently can be found along the streams and a trap set at these covered with rotten wood will not freeze down and will always be found ready for business in all kinds of weather. The covered "cubby" makes an excellent set for cold weather also. This is made by placing two

chunks of wood ten or more inches apart and covering over with small sticks, leaves, etc. Bait can be used when desired, and should be placed near the centre of the "cubby" with a trap guarding each opening. No matter how the winter storms rage, the trappers will always find the "cubby" set in gone shape.

In making sets on snow I find the best covering is a thin sheet of writing paper. With a sharp knife make two incisions near the centre of the sheet three inches long. This prevents the paper from crumpling when an animal steps upon it, and when sifted over with snow, it makes a covering that will work well under all conditions.

In using bait in cold weather, place them where they will not be covered with snow and ice, and the more blood on the bait the better they will attract. I have frequently used birds for bait with good success, using the feathers for covering the trap. Do not kill song birds for this purpose, as they are very beneficial. I usually use sparrows, jays, etc., killing them with a 22 calibre rifle. A dead chicken makes a fine bait for skunk in cold weather. Nest three or four traps about an old dead hen during a severe cold spell and the first warm night you are almost sure of one or more skunks. Quite frequently you will take opossum and fox in a set of this kind if you have used caution in making the set. If the ground is covered with snow use paper covering for traps.

An open string makes a fine location for a trap or two during extreme cold weather, when all streams are frozen over, they visit these open springs for water and are easily taken at such places. Quite often these spring brooks have open water several yards below the spring, owing to the warm water issuing from the ground, and usually some good sets can be made at such places.

Snares and deadfalls can often be used to advantage during cold weather. It is best to use "balance pole" snares, as snares made by using a bent switch will often freeze down and not work properly. Animals usually follow wooded streams, valleys, thickets, etc., during cold weather, and traps and snares placed in the most sheltered nooks near such places are very likely to add an occasional pellet to the trapper's "line."—Walter S. Chanley, in Fur News Magazine.

Since the Confederation of Canada, in 1867 there have been twenty-two bank failures as follows: Commercial, St. John, N. B., 1868; Acadia, Liverpool, N. S., 1873; Metropolitan, Montreal, 1877; Mechanics, Montreal 1879; Consolidated, Montreal, 1879; Liverpool, Liverpool, N. S., 1879; Sable-mine, Que., 1880; Exchange, Montreal, 1883; Maritime, St. John, N. B., 1887; Pi ton, Pictou, N. S., 1887; London in Canada, London, Ont., 1887; Central, Toronto, 1887; Federal, Toronto 1888; Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P. E. I., 1881; Commercial of Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1893; Banque du Peuple, Montreal, 1895; Banque St. Jean, 1865; Ont. Toronto, 1906; Sovereign Toronto, 1907; St. Stephen, N. B., 1910; Farmers' Bank Toronto, 1911.

Halifax Chronicle:—It does not seem to have occurred to the high protective interests that after all they may be doing the cause of reciprocity a very good service. The more they protest about the disadvantage of the measure, from the Canadian point of view, the more likely will it be to commend itself to the legislators at Washington. What they are concerned about at present is that they fear that Canada has got the better of the bargain. If only our Dingleyites would continue to raise a storm about the "ruin and disaster" that is going to overtake Canada, it might serve to stiffen the packs of those Senators at Washington who, to say the least, are lukewarm over Mr. Taft's arrangement. If that be so, even the perversity of Torvison may work for the good of Canada.