

products valued at 4 cents or less than 4 cents per pound are to be admitted free into Canada from the United States, as soon as the United States government consents to admit pulp and paper free from all parts of Canada.

What I wish to make plain is this, that I gather from the two wordings that strawboard will be admitted free from the United States although the United States will not admit strawboard free. I can hardly believe that the Hon. Mr. Fielding will allow the agreement to go through in that way. Free admission to the United States for our strawboard will not be of any use to us, but that is only added proof that we are placed in a helpless position. I would like very much to have the opportunity of having a short interview with the Minister of Finance, just for the purpose of explaining our position.

Yours truly,

The Trent River Paper Co., Ltd.,

W. S. MILLER,

Managing Director.

I would ask the Minister of Finance whether an interview such as it is desired here would be accorded?

Mr. FIELDING. We are here from day to day, and we are only too happy to receive any gentlemen who come to us on public business.

Mr. KNOWLES. I am requested to communicate to the government and the House this important and I believe wise and patriotic resolution passed unanimously by the Swift Current Board of Trade. The resolution reads:

This board of trade views with satisfaction the reciprocal tariff arrangement recently negotiated between Canada and the United States, and on behalf of the agricultural interests of Swift Current strongly urges upon the government of Canada that the promotion of better commercial relations between this country and the great republic to the south of us will not affect our national loyalty but will greatly stimulate the agricultural interests of this country and assist the development of these resources.

Respectfully,

A. WEBER,

Secretary.

Mr. GOODEVE. I desire to bring to the attention of the House the two following resolutions which have been communicated to me:

RESOLUTION OF THE CRESTON FRUIT AND PRODUCE ASSOCIATION.

Whereas the proposed agreement introduced by the Hon. Mr. Fielding will inflict a severe blow to the fruit and lumbering industries of British Columbia without giving any equivalent; and whereas the fruit industry is in its infancy and needs fostering; and whereas the fostering of home industries is of vital importance to the welfare of this province; and whereas the proposed agreement would impair the capital investment of those interested in those industries; now be it resolved, that the Creston Fruit and Produce Association

Mr. PORTER.

tion in regular meeting here assembled, strongly condemns the proposed agreement so far as it applies to these two industries.

And whereas the principle of reciprocity with the United States involves fundamental changes in the policy adopted during the past ten years and with such success by Canada, and may involve Canada as a whole, in a policy which will result in our commerce being diverted, and flowing north to south, instead of east to west as at present, to the great disadvantage of Canadian railways, manufacturers and producers; therefore the Creston Fruit and Produce Association, in regular meeting here assembled, requests the earnest attention of the government to these facts, before any change whatsoever is made, in the present successful Canadian tariff policy.

And that copies of these resolutions be sent to Premier McBride, A. S. Goodeve, Senator Hewitt Bostock and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Resolution passed unanimously by the South Kootenay Farmers' Institute:

Whereas, the fruit and vegetable growers of South Kootenay have invested heavily in the fruit industry, relying upon the government of Canada to maintain existing tariff conditions as affecting their products; or in case of any modification of the tariff affecting fruit, vegetable, and poultry products, to benefit, at least, to an equal extent by the modification of the tariff on other articles affecting the cost of production of these commodities; and

Whereas, the cost of production in this district is increased by the fact that labour and all supplies are higher by reason of a generally protective tariff, and by the distance from eastern Canadian manufacturing centres; and

Whereas, the proposed reciprocity arrangement with the United States would remove the protection which we now enjoy, while there is nothing in the proposed reciprocal arrangement to reduce the cost of production; the result, therefore, will be both injurious and unjust to us, and will doubtless mean the ruin of many who have invested their all in these industries.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the members of the South Kootenay Farmers' Institute, do unanimously protest against the abrogation of the present duties on fruit, vegetables and poultry products, and respectfully urge that the government of Canada may find some other means of securing such concessions as they may desire from the United States than the partial extinction of these most important industries.

Signed on behalf of the Institute.

GEO. A. PAULL,

Secretary.

Dated at Columbia Gardens, B.C.,

Feb. 13, 1911.

Mr. SEXSMITH. I wish to call the attention of the government to the following item from the Toronto 'News,' which is published in the Montreal 'Gazette':

Toronto, February 22.—The 'News' says that President Stuart, of the Quaker Oats Company, a large American concern, with a Canadian branch at Peterborough, while in the city a few days ago, stated to Z. A. Lash, K.C., that if the proposed agreement