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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1910.

RECIPROCITY: WHY THE UNITED STATES WANTS IT.

The Canadian Magazine for December contains an article from the pen of Hon. George E. Foster which sets out very clearly some reasons why the United States desires reciprocity with Canada. We give it place in our editorial columns as a timely contribution to the current discussion of this important subject.

What does the United States want, and what is it looking for in this new movement for reciprocity with Canada?

1.—It wants to mitigate the high cost of living by getting supplies of food from Canada at cheaper prices than at present. But it is obvious that the only way it can secure this is by diminishing or removing the customs charge which meets Canadian food products at the border. All it has to do is by its own action to take off the six cents from cheese, the twenty-five per cent. from flour, the forty-five per cent. from vegetables, the duty from meats, and so on throughout the whole food list, and the cost will be as far reduced as is possible. No reciprocity treaty can compel the Canadian producer or the Canadian carrier to produce or to carry products for United States consumers at less than they are now doing, or may from time to time find it profitable to do. A reciprocity treaty is therefore not necessary in order to reduce to a minimum the cost of Canadian foodstuffs to the United States consumer. But it would be very useful to the Republican party to be able to say to its electors, when forced to reduce duties on Canadian foodstuffs:—"See what we have got as an offset from Canada; we have made them pay roundly for our doing our duty to you; we are clever." Can anyone anywhere give any good reason why we should bleed to help the Republican party do justice to its own people, in getting cheaper foods for them?

2.—It wants to get cheap raw materials from Canada's virgin stores for the use of its manufacturing industries, which will work it up in United States centres, with United States paid workmen, all the profits and accessory benefits of which will inure to the United States. That is a laudable object—for the United States. But they can get Canadian raw materials as cheaply as possible, and so effect this purpose, by removing all customs duties which face these exports on their national boundary. Let them take their duties off wood-pulp, and lumber of all kinds, off coal, and wheat, and they have at once eliminated the only item of cost that a reciprocity treaty could effect. For no reciprocity treaty could compel Canadians to produce or carry these commodities at cheaper prices than they do now or may at any time consider reasonable. Clearly then the United States does not need a treaty in order to effect this object. But the Republican party, if it could induce Canada to pay it for making these concessions to its manufacturing interests, could say:—"See how clever we are—we grant you what you are entitled to and what greatly benefits you, and we have induced the Canucks to foot the bill."

3.—It wants to get a market for its products in Canada. What products? Natural and manufactured, but mainly and especially the latter. The New England States are today the stronghold of the reciprocity movement in the United States. New England is the great manufacturing section—it is the smallest producer and largest consumer of food and raw products. That section is not seeking a market in which to sell meats, fish, flour, butter, cheese or any food products or any raw material such as woods, coals, ores, wools or cottons. It is a large buyer of all these. So that in so far as reciprocity would result in opening the Canadian market to natural products, the New England States have no interest in it. Nor does the rest of the country have much interest in it. They have no surplus products of the fisheries, of metallic or mineral ores, to send north, and their northern forests are becoming depleted; they will not long suffice for the wants of their immense and rapidly-increasing population, which will more and more have to apply to Canada. As to agricultural and animal products, the claims of home consumption are rapidly approaching the capacity for home production, and it will not be long before they will have to be met by importation. Local interchange there will be at certain points, but in comparatively small proportions, and even that will tend to diminish. Coal alone might form an article of considerable export, but confined to localities and subject to the strong competition of Canadian black and white coal. No sane man will predict any large overflow of natural products from the United States northward.

But for manufactured products the opposite is true. In these, East and West, North and South are all interested, and the first three sections greatly interested. The East, which was the mother-nest of manufacturing industries, is still easily first. But out of that nest sturdy fledglings have flown north, west and south. To-day the West has an enormous industrial development and capacity; it is supplying its great western population and has the advantage of propinquity as against the East. The South, too, with its more favorable climatic and labor conditions is rapidly developing its capacity for industrial production and reaching out in strong competition with both East and West. Under these circumstances the East is looking to the great northern country beyond the line, is most anxious for entrance thereto, and, if you listen to its voice as expressed on the platform and in the newspaper, considers it vital to her continued industrial prosperity that she should find

compensating markets therein. Similarly and in only lesser degree western industry craves the opportunity to supply with its products the large demands of the rapidly-filling provinces of our West to in part compensate it for growing competition from the South. For the present, with its 7,000,000 people, that market is desirable, but when it comprises twenty, fifty or one hundred millions, how much more desirable; and the business instinct and business sagacity of the United States see clearly the vision of the future. Therefore it is evident that the reciprocity wanted by the United States in order to meet its necessities is not reciprocity in natural products, but in manufactured products. Cheaper foods and raw materials it can get by its own tariff action, though, of course, the political necessities of the Republican party would be mightily ministered to if only Canada could be induced to pay the piper for this tune.

4.—The United States wants, if possible, to prevent British inter-imperial trade union. This also is economically laudable on the part of the United States. Every country has a right to wage commercial warfare offensively and defensively; in fact, the country which does not do so is not doing its duty. It must look ahead, take note of what its rivals are doing, lay its plans to circumvent them, if possible, and at all hazards maintain its own position intact. England today is the great free market for the United States surplus; the British Colonies are the great coming competitors therein. The prospect of a mutual preference between all portions of the Empire with corresponding customs duties on all foreign products, spells trouble for United States trade expansion and supremacy. Under such conditions the exports of United States manufacturers to the British dominions would gradually be ousted by inter-imperial exports, whilst at the same time their imports would be brought under increased competition. The aggregated Anglo-Saxon Empire, as it filled up and expanded, would surpass all countries and be commercially supreme. To forestall such a movement and prevent such a consummation, the United States would give its eye-teeth, and rightly so, from its standpoint. Does not political supremacy, other things being equal, follow commercial supremacy? And so the national impulse is added to the trade impulse, and both tend to stimulate and strengthen the desire.

5.—The United States wants to establish itself in the national hegemony of this continent. For this we cannot find fault with it. Ambition in a nation is as praiseworthy as in the individual, and provided it is honorable in its aim and methods it is to be commended. In former days this passion of the United States was more in evidence and more openly militant; today it is cloaked and guarded, but it is none the less existent. In the times of our childhood no concealment was made either of the thought or of the conviction that it would ultimately be realized. It was in the lap of destiny. How threateningly this menace hung over the early years of our provinces older men and younger readers of our history well know; how much it had to do with shaping our policy of union and consolidation we all know. It ran in scarlet threads through the history of our trade and fisheries and boundary controversies. In the Senate and Congress of the United States it blazed out ever and anon. As late as 1888 so important a statesman as Senator Sherman declared:—"Our whole history since the conquest of Canada by Great Britain in 1763 has been a continuous warning that we cannot be at peace with each other except by political as well as commercial union."

To the efforts of continental and commercial unionists, and unrestricted reciprocity advocates who joined hands from Washington to Ottawa from 1889 to 1891, it formed the background and chief motive, so far as the United States half of the combination was concerned. And now one has but to read the utterances of the reciprocity pushers in the United States to see, between the lines in bold type, the same substance and the same desire, though now subordinated to and concealed in the idea of commercial intercourse. In that there is wisdom, but it is the wisdom of the nation which seeks by sequence and under cover of peace what an abrupt and open avowal would defeat. These, then, are the wants of the United States in regard to reciprocity. Are they Canada's wants? Do they fit in with our ideals, national or commercial? Are they consonant with British and Imperial aspirations?

PAUPERISM LESS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Pauperism in Great Britain has greatly decreased in amount, although it has increased in cost. At present, the outdoor pauperism is the lowest ever recorded for England and Wales, and the lowest in London for seven years, while the indoor pauperism of the metropolis is the lowest for three years. Indoor pauperism has remained stationary during the last ten years, says Mr. John Burns, president of the Local Government Board, because the workhouse is no longer the Bastille it used to be, and because children within the wards of the poorhouse no longer experience the treatment that was meted out to the Oliver Twists of fifty years ago.

More than half of the indoor poor are now in special institutions, where their ailments are better looked after than in the old mixed general workhouse, which was a combination of the lunatic asylum and the jail, with a little bit of street-corner throw in. The increase of cost is due to the higher standard of relief for the aged, the sick, and children. It is better economy to spend \$250 in getting rid of sickness before the patient is fourteen years old than to spend \$1,500 in palliating his symptoms after he is forty. Of the total pauperism, 20 per cent. is ascribed to sickness, and 45 per cent. to age and infirmity.

Current Comment

(Vancouver Province.)

In the event of His Majesty King George considering the proposed increase in the membership of the House of Lords, it would be impolitic to overlook the claims of the member for East St. Pancras. Lord Joseph Martin, M.P., K.C., Viscount of Vancouver, Baronet of Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, New Westminster and Deadman's Island, would adorn the pages of Burke and add to the luster of an historic house. The coat-of-arms might consist of a prairie chicken, rampant with a border of maple leaves and cactus.

(Stratford Beacon.)

Start the children right in youth, by inculcating the value of the pennies, gradually encouraging them to take advantage of our banking system, and a good step forward has been accomplished. The Penny Bank is a valuable means to this end, and it should be the aim of all concerned to encourage the children to become depositors therein.

(Brockville Times.)

A sign of the growth of British trade between Great Britain and Canada is shown in the number of catalogues which come into Canada from Great Britain. Old firms founded over a century ago, with world-wide reputations, are sending out their illustrated literature carefully arranged to meet Canadian requirements, prices quoted in Canadian currency, and explicit directions as to ordering, etc. And their agents report a material increase in their Canadian trade.



ANOTHER SIDE TO ALBERT SCHOOL MATTER

J. C. Prescott Writes Stirring Letter in Reply to "Veritas"—Explains His Own Position—Removes Trouble

To the Editor of The Standard.

Sir:—Some irresponsible persons signing themselves "Veritas" had a communication in your paper of the 15th inst., re the trouble in the consolidated school of Riverside and Albert. Being commenced by saying that it seemed fair to the principal and staff that a just account of the recent disturbances should be published. They go on to give what I term, an unjust account of the disturbances, which is my reason for replying to "Veritas."

About one year ago P. J. McClellan mentioned to the secretary of the school board that he would prefer the children going to and from school would not cross his cultivated land as it injured the grass. The secretary reported the matter to the principal, W. C. R. Anderson and Mr. Anderson cautioned the children against trespassing on Mr. McClellan's land and through the winter months they desisted. During the past summer, however, the children have been going over the forbidden ground without any objection being made either by the owner or the principal.

About six weeks ago the principal told the Albert children that they must make no short cuts either going or coming from school, and as a penalty for disobeying the rule was that they would be required to walk home by way of Riverside, which would make the distance considerable further. Some of the pupils, however, were given other penalties. The parents of the children objected to this mode of punishment, and a meeting of the board of trustees was called to decide the matter.

I was present at that meeting and the only question of trespass that came up, was that of Mr. McClellan, and I voted to sustain the principal, not knowing that he had arbitrarily insisted that the children should make no short cuts. At that meeting, which was on a Thursday, the board decided to refer the matter to the superintendent of education and the attorney general. The principal attended the meeting and told the board that if he was not given a decided answer before Monday as to whether he would be sustained or not, he would not be on hand to teach, and the secretary, at the instance of the chairman and one or two other trustees, had to telephone the superintendent of education and the attorney general in place of writing them as the board had ordered. In order to placate the principal, before the next meeting held on the following Saturday I made myself acquainted with the whole matter in question, and found that the principal was acting in an unfair manner towards the children of this village.

First—By stopping them from going over other people's property when the owners of such property had made no complaint, and in some instances had given permission.

Second—For making different penalties of an easier nature to one of the old pupils.

Third—By giving the children from Midway permission to cross the same man's lot, which he asked the board to expel the Albert children for going across.

Fourth—By allowing the children from Midway to go to Riverside to take short cuts without saying anything and demanding that the children from this village be expelled for taking short cuts.

The Superintendent of Education said the board had power to expel the children and when the principal was acting in an arbitrary and unfair manner and I would not vote to expel the Albert children, "Veritas" says that some of the trustees exercised the women's privilege of changing their minds.

I am proud to say that I exercised that privilege and perhaps my opinion may have as great an influence as that of "Veritas." If I could not tell a straighter story than he did in his first letter I do not think it would be much of a compliment to the fair sex in me changing my mind. I am one of the malcontents which "Veritas" classes some of the trustees and I consider I have a just reason to be such. Mr. Anderson asked the trustees verbally at one of their meetings to consider his resignation. I left the meeting because I did not consider that I could decide such an important matter offhand, without taking time to consider. After I left the meeting I understood his resignation was considered and because it was unlikely that his place could be filled very easily at this time of the year, the rest of the board who had remained concluded not to accept his resignation.

At a meeting held soon afterwards Mr. Anderson asked each trustee a letter asking them to consider his resignation. No action was taken on this communication until the 8th of December when at a meeting of the board it was decided by a majority of that body to ask the principal for his resignation. When the secretary conveyed the wishes of the board to Mr. Anderson I understood he refused to resign. At a meeting held to decide whether the scholars should be made to accept the penalty or be expelled from school, the trustees refused to adopt such an arbitrary course and three were in favor of it and the chairman decided in the affirmative.

Thinking you, Mr. Editor, for the space I have occupied, I remain, Yours truly,
J. C. PRESCOTT.
Albert, N. B., Dec. 17, 1910.

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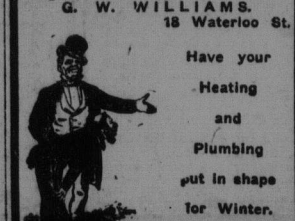
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