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THE RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS PETERING TO A TAME FINISH SAY WASHINGTON DISPATCHES

Idea Said to Have Been Found Impracticable By the Negotiators Under Present Conditions in the U. S.—Agreement Will Likely Be Applied to Only a Few Minor Products.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Washington, Jan. 11.—The reciprocity negotiations are petering out to a graceful but unexciting finish. In a few days from now the joint commission will suspend its labors, and the Canadian ministers return to their home to report a perfectly amicable, but only mildly conclusive, conference with delegates of the Republican Government.

From day to day in his dispatches your correspondent has been enabled to emphasize the likelihood that the meeting would produce only the semblance of reciprocity, not sufficient to arouse in any section of the country, or any class of interests, either vivacity or gleeful satisfaction.

Found Impracticable.

With the developments of the past 24 hours, it may now be set down with confidence that reciprocity has been found impracticable by the negotiators in the present state of public opinion in the country.

In other words, the outcome of the meetings here is that both Governments will end a reciprocity agreement by applying it to a few minor products, and these latter will in all

likelihood be outside the firing zone of powerful political and commercial interests in either country. By this means the Governments hope to supply sufficient miniature object lessons on the benefits of reciprocity in order to educate public opinion into some more comprehensive measure of it at a future time. For the present, therefore, as your correspondent is enabled to state, neither Government is going to disturb to any large extent existing conditions of international trade.

Knox Pessimistic.

Indeed an opinion to this effect has been expressed privately today by no other than the secretary of state, Philander C. Knox, who ought to know by this time the inclinations of the joint committee. Wednesday, the third day of the reciprocity pennant series, finds Messrs. Peppier, Anderson and Knox on bases, with the President at bat, and the talented esperanza brothers, Paterson and Fielding, acting as the battery of visiting team. The game begins at 3 o'clock every afternoon and ends at 5. At that hour the secretaries of the envoys and their colleagues carefully gather together the state papers, haul down the flags of the cigar boxes, and pass through the line of carpets with the trembling anxiety of a Casabianca. The plenipotentiaries scatter smiles, the clerks, writers, with their scattering of journalists, stand back and ponder on the hidden stories which single minutes of custom are hiding beneath his beard.

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A NEW WING MAY BE ADDED TO MIDDLESEX COURTHOUSE

A joint meeting of a committee of the county council, composed of Mr. S. Frank Glass, Mr. Miller, Mr. Mayne, and others, County Engineer Talbot, and Ald. Mitchell and Morgan, City Engineer Van Cleave and City Architect Nutter, and representatives of the Middlesex Bar Association, was held at the county engineer's office yesterday afternoon, when the two engineers and the architect were appointed to investigate conditions, and make a report on Friday, Jan. 20, as to the best method to improve conditions at the courthouse, especially with regard to the law library.

It was practically decided to erect

an addition to the courthouse at the south side, and it is expected that this will do away with the difficulty for some years at least. The plan was submitted at the meeting on the 20th, when the engineers will report.

The library, which is not nearly large enough to accommodate the Bar Association, as it is scarcely possible to move around among the different book racks.

After meeting the deputations from the city council the county representatives were more hopeful, and expect to be able to proceed with the work in question without trouble with the city.

WATER AND ELECTRIC RATES TO BE COLLECTED BY BANK

New Move of the Board of Water Commissioners Which is Calculated to Prove of Great Convenience to the Citizens of London.

The Bank of Toronto will in future collect the water rates and electric light bills for the city at any one of its four branches free of charge.

Chairman Peacock, of the water commission, has received a communication from the bank manager, Mr. John Pringle, saying that if the commissioners will supply the necessary stationery the bank will collect these bills.

This will be a great convenience to the citizens," declared Mr. Peacock today. "Those citizens who live in the east end, for instance, could go to the

branch at Adelaide and Dundas streets and pay their bills without the necessity of coming down town. I think it will be a great help to us, and will be appreciated by the citizens. It will cost nothing to the city, and the bank must be obtained under any circumstances."

It is possible that the same arrangement may be made with other banks in London may be made every section of London will be served.

The power rates will be collected on the 10th of the month, while the water rates will be collected as usual on the 20th.

THE WEATHER

Tomorrow—Much Colder.

FORECAST.

Today—Fresh to strong winds, shifting to north-west and north; a few scattered showers today; turning decidedly colder during the night, with light frost.

Thursday—Decidedly colder.

TEMPERATURES.

Station. Max. Min. Weather.

Victoria 49 40 Rain.

Calgary 49 30 Clear.

Winnipeg 49 20 Clear.

Port Arthur 49 20 Cloudy.

Toronto 49 20 Cloudy.

Montreal 49 20 Cloudy.

Quebec 49 20 Cloudy.

St. John's 49 20 Cloudy.

Minneapolis 49 20 Cloudy.

Chicago 49 20 Cloudy.

St. Louis 49 20 Cloudy.

Indianapolis 49 20 Cloudy.

Philadelphia 49 20 Cloudy.

New York 49 20 Cloudy.

Boston 49 20 Cloudy.

Washington 49 20 Cloudy.

San Francisco 49 20 Cloudy.

Los Angeles 49 20 Cloudy.

San Diego 49 20 Cloudy.

Albany 49 20 Cloudy.

Syracuse 49 20 Cloudy.

Buffalo 49 20 Cloudy.

Rochester 49 20 Cloudy.

Salt Lake City 49 20 Cloudy.

Portland 49 20 Cloudy.

Seattle 49 20 Cloudy.

Spokane 49 20 Cloudy.

Bozeman 49 20 Cloudy.

Butte 49 20 Cloudy.

Helena 49 20 Cloudy.

Great Falls 49 20 Cloudy.

Billings 49 20 Cloudy.

Calcutta 49 20 Cloudy.

Rangoon 49 20 Cloudy.

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