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What Reciprocity Will Do For Canada if Ratified

Americans Seek the Canadian Home Market, Not Only for Their Natural Products, but for Their Manufactures as Well—Our Market Once Lost to the Americans it Could Hardly Ever Again Be Regained

To the Editor of The Gleaner.

Sir,—It will render null and void the national expenditure of countless millions hitherto laid out in the development of Canada as an independent nation. It will create a new and valuable market for the Americans at our expense, not a market mark you for the benefit of the Canadian farmer. The Canadian fondly imagines it to be so, but it will be sadly disappointed. The American public have come to the conclusion that the benefits are principally on their side, and correctly so. That is the unanimous conclusion also of the business men of the British Empire of all shades of politics. It is the opinion of the other nations who are watching with interest the course of events. Mr. Taft has let the secret become known to the world, and his spoken and written speeches proclaim his belief in the benefit reciprocity will be to his own people. It is the opinion of the recent date he shows to the world how it will benefit all classes of Americans. He begins by showing that it would tend to conserve AMERICAN RESOURCES; then he goes on to show in what directions the American farmer and manufacturer would benefit in having access to the Canadian market. He shows his own people that in spite of duty their trade with Canada is two-thirds more than the Canadian trade with the United States. The tendency will be for their trade with us to increase if the treaty goes through. The new market is not for the benefit of the Canadian farmer; THE WHOLE THING WAS CONCEIVED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, and to all appearances there are many Canadians who think so little of their own country that they are assisting them to that end, thereby fulfilling the command, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Do good to them that despitefully use you." Mr. Taft goes on and finishes up with the significant words which follow:

"If Canada continues to grow WHAT MAY WE NOT EXPECT TO SELL HER if we reduce the tariff wall, introduce as near as we can free trade, and she increases her population from seven to thirty millions? Shall we not be flying in the face of Providence to maintain a wall between us and such a profitable market as she will furnish us?"

Gentlemen, those are the exact words of Mr. Taft. How much comfort is there for you Canadian farmers in those words? Does he show much concern for your welfare except as customers? In my opinion he missed his vocation in life. He should have been a commercial traveller; in that line he would not doubt have been a complete success. THE AMERICANS WISH FOR FREE TRADE WITH YOU IN SO FAR AS IT ACCORDS WITH THEIR OWN INTERESTS, not yours. Will free trade be an unmitigated blessing to Canada, an angel in disguise? Has its nature and effects been miraculously changed within the last few months? Free trade; when I think of that phrase I always associate it with that story of St. Paul and his trip through ancient Athens. There are folks in evidence who would despise one as a heathen should he dare to say one word against their idol, free trade. At the same time they have never studied the history or effects of it, whether good or bad. I ask them to point out any nation except Great Britain which upholds that policy. There have been nations to give it a trial. France, Austria, Holland, each in turn have tried it, and the result is they have rejected it entirely and gone on the other track. Even in England where they have tried it so long, they are getting dissatisfied with the results. Twenty years ago the ordinary Englishman if asked if he was a free-trader, would have replied "Of course I am;" he was educated to believe that. It is not so now. If you were to ask the question today in a railway carriage or any public place, you will find many who are more in favor of protection, or, as it is known in England, Tariff Reform. Such is the way opinions change; public opinion has shifted round, dead against free trade, and only Scotland and Ireland block the way to a change of policy. Cobden's prophecies in regard to free trade have not come true. He used to say that not one blade of corn would grow; not one laborer less would be employed on the land, if free trade came into force. He also said that the advantages would be so great that other nations would be bound to follow Britain's lead. Again, he said that under free trade poverty and destitution would be banished. The truth is that none of those things happened. Neither will they happen. The policy is not a sound one. It has been successful, and never will be. Then, why are you willing to try that fatal

policy, even for one year, when you cannot help seeing that in the case of other nations it has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. I can take you to any big town or city in Great Britain, and show you thousands of people living on the borders of starvation. I can take you to shops and factories where many thousands more women and girls are working ten and twelve hours a day for seventy-five cents and less per week, and out of that they have to find clothes, food and shelter. I know, too, where to find able-bodied men working steadily throughout the year for two dollars, and two dollars and a half per week, out of which, in some cases, they have to help support large families. Have you any conception of what that means? These are the prices for labor in free trade England, and this is a true statement of labor conditions under Free Trade. This is the level to which it will bring Canada in the years to come, if you persist in trying this policy.

To avoid the effects of evil, you must abstain from all appearance of it. That is the only safe way. You would scarcely handle a deadly snake just to see if it would really sting you, and you would not think much of the wisdom of anyone who did so, but that is exactly the logic which is being handed out concerning the question now before you. No harm in trying it, they say. There will be still less in leaving it severely alone. Those countries are the most prosperous which make protection their guiding policy. It has cost me something to learn the difference between the two policies. I am generous enough to give you the benefit of a life experience, and I ask you to shun Free Trade as you would the devil, for if you do not you will find it a hard road to travel, and a long one. If you will attempt to travel that road, then you, having your interests at heart, seek to warn and advise you. I do not blame the Americans. They are only looking out for themselves, and

making a very good job of it, as they generally do. It is everything to a business man to have an outlet for his products, and that is what they are looking for in this deal. The wonder is how any Canadian farmer who uses a reasonable amount of common sense can be anything else but a protectionist, and he ought to be able to plainly see WHAT THE AMERICAN IS AFTER. THAT IS NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN THE CONTROL OF OUR HOME MARKET, ON WHICH TO DUMP THEIR MANUFACTURES WHOLESALE, AND AT THE SAME TIME ABSORB OUR RAW MATERIAL, with which to keep their factories and people busy, while our own workmen are thrown out of employment. If you return the present government to power, the leaders will at once assume that you have given them a free hand to not only pass the treaty on a trial basis, but they will most likely go further and bind you down to an extension of time, at least to the end of their term of office, whether you want it or not, and you will have no option but to accept their ultimatum. If their autocratic actions in the past are any criterion of their future conduct, that is what you may reasonably expect. Some of the most successful business men of this and other nations can see the rocks ahead in which the Canadian Ship of State is very apt to strike and sink, unless those on board are prepared to avoid the danger by skilful navigation. Two things MR. TAFT SAYS, and I finish. "THE UNITED STATES EXPORTS TO CANADA A GREAT MANY MORE HORSES THAN SHE IMPORTS. SHE SENDS TO CANADA A MUCH LARGER QUANTITY OF POTATOES THAN SHE RECEIVES FROM CANADA." THE (Continued on Page 4.)

Don't Forget Election Time

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