

these leaders. That is public opinion manufactured.

"It is neither wise, logical, nor sound, to be consistent under all circumstances, and no one has a right to claim infallibility. Therefore it is no consequence what this or that leading statesman said about reciprocity. The facts are these. In 1896 the Liberals were returned to power, undoubtedly on the promise of a tariff reduction. That promise was not fulfilled, and we did not fail to let Sir Wilfrid Laurier know that fact, while he was in the West last summer. Reciprocity is the first instalment of the tariff reform promised. Sir Wilfrid should not be accused of being a convicted free trader, and at the same time accused of all sorts of heinous crimes for bringing in a measure of free trade. That is not logical."

#### Honor to Haultain

"The Hon. Mr. Haultain, leader of the opposition in this province, on this question, threw political expediency to the winds, and stands for right against wrong. His oration in support of the premier's motion in favor of reciprocity has added unto him hundreds of friends in this province. I am no prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but a very large measure of reduction on manufactured articles will have to be granted. The temper of the people will not stand for paying this tribute to Caesar much longer. It is no satisfaction to us that at their deaths some of these millionaires, whom we create, leave large amounts to churches and universities as a sort of fire insurance premium. Let us all have equal rights and no privileges. We do not ask for charity."

#### Farmers Holding Together

S. Bingham, of the Cory branch, assured Mr. Borden that the Grain Growers were not animated by party feeling in their demand for reciprocity. "I believe," he said, "that the majority of the men I represent would have been only too well pleased if in yourself they could have found a man who would have given the farmers these things which they most desire. The one thing most desired by these men is reciprocity. They are with you and you are with them on almost every other question. Your policy with regard to the terminal elevators, the Hudson Bay railway, the chilled meat trade, and co-operative legislation are all in accord with our desires. Reciprocity is the one thing upon which we Western farmers have sunk all party differences and found common ground. It has been said that the farmers cannot stand together, but I am glad to say here tonight that the Western farmer on the reciprocity question is nailing that lie to the counter. We do stand together; we are for reciprocity first, last and all the time (cheers), and we honestly believe that if we can induce a government, and we care not whether it is Grit or Tory, to give us reciprocity, we can very soon do away with 60 or 70 per cent of the other evils under which we suffer. (Applause.)"

#### Reciprocity Good for All

"The Western farmer has been constantly misunderstood, and constantly misconstrued. Even in the house of commons we Western farmers have been referred to as blacksmith shop politicians, and our wives as chore boys. But we are men. The men I represent are some of the best citizens in Canada; they are men who have paid 100 cents on the dollar for everything they own and more than 100 cents on the dollar for a good deal that they do not own. We are not selfish in this matter. We believe that the reciprocity pact is good for all Canada; we believe that it will, first and foremost, be good for the farmers. We believe that it will be money in our pockets, that it will give us greater purchasing power and we believe in our hearts that reciprocity will lead eventually to the greatest good for all."

"The farmers, sir, reap only where they have sown, but there are plenty of people in this country who are continually reaping where they have not sown, and we believe that reciprocity will help us to stop some of this illegitimate reaping of other people's profits. We believe that in standing firm on this reciprocity question we are doing a great service to Canada. I have put a note down with regard to the interests that are

opposing us, but perhaps the less said about that the better. But we know that a number of people are continually influencing the policy of this country by the use of great wealth. The farmers cannot do that; we have only moral force, but we will strive to the uttermost in this thing. We wish with all our hearts that we could convert you. (Loud applause.) We wish that Saskatchewan could accomplish what no other place in Western Canada has done—convert you to reciprocity, and if you will only say you will give us reciprocity, we are at one with you in other things, and then we might be able to stand together."

"Western farmers have no sympathy with the idea of a general election this fall. We feel that it would be a great injustice to Western Canada to have an election before redistribution. We believe that reciprocity should pass, and

then afterwards we can have our say on other things in a general election."

#### The Curse of Protection

Mr. John Evans said the farmers of Western Canada had come to the conclusion that there was no reason for the continuance of the protective tariff, whatever there might have been in the past. What had done most for the cause of protection was the system of education that had been carried on by its advocates. This system consisted chiefly in using the columns of newspapers to advocate protection, and they believed that a large portion of the newspapers of this country were tied up to the manufacturers and other members of the privileged classes. Side by side with this system of education a system of intrigue had been carried on at Ottawa, and no doubt Mr. Borden was himself aware that the magnates of

greed and graft had maintained a gentleman, whom they called their tariff expert, at Ottawa, during the whole session of parliament. It was this system that the farmers believed was lowering the standard of public life, and had caused such a concentration of interests that our political parties had had to reckon with, if not to depend on, the favor of these specially privileged ones.

#### The Creed of Privilege

"They, themselves," said Mr. Evans "have come to believe that the country and its people exist for their exploitation only. Every reason that has ever been put forward on behalf of protection has been negated by what actually takes place. They have been able by this system to bleed the consumer while they cut prices abroad, and adjust them to meet all competition, and some

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# GREAT WEST

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