# MC 2035 POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1911

### J. Allan Baker, M. P., Believes Reciprocity Will Be Benefit

J. Allan Baker, M. P., for Finsbury, England, who is almost as well known in Canada as in England, this being his native country, where he still possesses real estate interests, was asked by The Montreal Herald as to the truth of the allegations that the business world of Great Britain viewed with anxiety the proposed reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Baker replied that as a member of the British parliament he was reluctant to say anything on a question of Canadian domestic concern, but he felt free to correct, as far as he could, any false impressions which were abroad in the dominion regarding the attitude of the British people.

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It is a well known fact, he said, that Great Britain is sincerely desirous of cultivating the most friendly relations with the United States, and there is certainly a wide-spread impression in the Old Country that freer trade in natural products between Canada and the United States should tend to the promotion of a better understanding between these three branches of the English-speaking race.

Asked as to the truth of the statement that English capital is being diverted from Canadian enterprises through fear of reciprocity, Mr. Baker said he had no evidence that such was the case, and he could hardly believe any such fear existed. "We have every reason to have confidence in Canada's loyalty to the Empire" remarked Mr. Baker, "and there is certainly no deep-rooted opinion in England that the proposed freer trade in natural products will result in estranging Canada in the slightest degree from the Empire. The English business man is not a sentimentalist, and he makes his investments where he thinks the returns will be largest and safest. Of course, as between an investment under the flag and one outside its folds he will choose the former if the conditions and prospects are approximately equal. He is not likely to feel that greaver trade in natural products between Canada and the United States will lessen the prosperity of the dominion, or tend to make his investments in this country less secure. On the contrary, I believe the opposite will be the case, and that the general impression of the investing public in England will be that reciprocity, by developing Canada's natural resources, will increase the security of capital.

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I can appreciate the fact that some of our people in England may have been listurbed in mind by repetitions of the charge that reciprocity will lead to annexation, but I think that the number of these is insignificant, and that on the whole Englishmen will welcome the arrangement as one which will go to strengthen the good understanding between the republic and the Empire which has been so well illustrated by the Taft-Grey agreement."





HIS INVESTMENTS idle as the monument to some one's folly. It had always been the C. P. R. policy, he said, to develop Canadian ports, but they, and the other railways, could not be expected always to continue this policy at a loss, as they would have to under the reciprocity agreement.

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