

I say, a system of Free Trade appealed to such a people and they took hold of it with a vice-like grip.

But has Great Britain got Free Trade in the Adam Smith sense of the term? It would surprise most of our British friends, and it would certainly surprise Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to be told that "Free Trade as it is in England" is not Free Trade at all, not in the faintest degree. They have what they think is Free Trade and have lived long in that delusion. Adam Smith advocated a free interchange of products among nations, and not an exchange in which one side admits everything free of duty which it buys and the other imposes a duty on everything you sell them. Trade is not free unless it is free both ways. The British system is, therefore, not Free Trade. It has been rightly described as "jug-handled." Adam Smith never in a single line advocated such a system. If he were living today it is safe to say he would unquestionably denounce it as unscientific, absurd and a misnomer.

THE OLD RECIPROCITY TREATY.

Reciprocity, too, is a most plausible and seductive word and appeals to many of the people of Canada in the four different ways I have referred to much in the same way as Free Trade appeals to the people of Great Britain. Let us take the first form of appeal—the traditional favor which it has enjoyed in Canada. Under the old Reciprocity arrangement with the United States, which remained in force until after the Civil War and was abrogated because the United States Government thought Canada and Great Britain had taken sides with the South, Canada was prosperous. Canada prospered for reasons which are obvious and which have often been pointed out; for reasons which have never existed since, and for reasons which will never again exist unless the productive capacities of the people of the United States should be temporarily paralyzed by another civil war. As a consequence, the people of Canada—Conservatives and Liberals alike—associated reciprocity and prosperity as cause and effect for years after the abrogation of the treaty, and many unto this day. Whereas reciprocity simply took advantage of a condition which was temporary and ceased to exist when the causes which produced it came to an end. As a consequence, too, at various times Canadian Governments—Conservative and Liberal—have pleaded with the United States for a renewal of reciprocity, and even when the National Policy was adopted in 1878, so steeped was the Government still in the old conviction, that the measure included a clause providing automatically, so to speak, for a reciprocal tariff whenever political circumstances would permit. This traditional policy is now quoted by Liberals as a triumphant justification of Sir Wilfrid's present policy and against the Conservatives as going