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## THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT TO BE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

IT is now officially announced that H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught has been appointed to succeed Earl Grey in September next as Governor-General of Canada. The appointment is for two years and under conditions now prevailing in England is an indication that the British Government attaches no small importance to Canada. The news will be heartily approved by all classes of Canadians, and the Duke may be sure of a most enthusiastic welcome. That the period of the appointment may be extended to the full term will be the general desire.

## RECIPROCITY. A

DESPATCH from Washington announces that President Taft has cancelled all his engagements for a southern tour in order to devote his whole time to an effort to secure the ratification of the reciprocity agreement with Canada. That he will succeed is highly improbable for reasons not altogether connected with the merits of the proposed arrangement. On the eve of a political crisis he finds himself dependent upon a hostile majority in Congress to enable him to pass a measure which is liable to be opposed by any members who want for party reasons to oppose him; some, on the ground that it goes too far and others, on the ground that it does not go far enough. In Canada, opposition to the agreement is developing rapidly and is likely to take a concerted form at any moment. That it will safely pass the Dominion Parliament, if the Government press it, may be taken for granted. That the Government will push the matter, if there is any sign of reluctance, or successful opposition in Congress is very doubtful. In view of the protests raised in the principal commercial centres of the Dominion, it becomes a debatable question whether it is good politics to make reciprocity the chief issue in the approaching general election campaign. Should Congress turn the agreement down positively and with the appearance of finality it might avert an embarrassing situation for the Dominion Government. The agreement is neither so good for Canada as claimed by its friends, nor so bad as pretended by its opponents. It will tend to raise the price of hay and dairy products for the Canadian farmers along the Eastern Townships frontier; but that it will increase the price of wheat for the farmers of the North-West, by so much as a cent a bushel is altogether improbable, because the price of wheat is fixed not by conditions on this continent, but entirely by the law of

supply and demand in the European market. The United States must tend in the nature of things to become more and more a wheat importing country, Mr. James J. Hill is a shrewd observer, a keen critic and a master of terse suggestion. He makes no secret of where the interests of his roads lie. Regarding the passage of the reciprocity legislation by the Dominion Parliament as a sure thing and the enactment of similar legislation by Congress as problematical, he openly declares that the completion of the international agreement will deprive the Canadian Pacific Railway of the long haul to Fort William. If Mr. Hill is correct and he is a good judge of these things, it means something more than depriving the C.P.R. of the long haul—it means the diversion by wholesale of the Canadian wheat traffic to American ports and shipping. The situation is a serious one and demands the grave consideration of Canadians not from any party point of view, but solely from the point of view of Canadian national interests.

## WHITHER DOES RECIPROCITY LEAD?

THE most serious aspect about the reciprocity question is, what is its legitimate and natural conclusion? In the opinion of many people its chief danger is not in its failure, but in the possibility of its success. In their judgment, if the reciprocity agreement succeeds it tends to commercial annexation. For good or for ill, it means putting all our eggs into the continental basket, and giving the basket to the Government at Washington to hold. How will this affect the British connection? How will it affect the Empire?

## ELECTORAL COMMITTEE ROOMS.

MOST parliamentary candidates will be grateful for Mr. Langlois' bill, making it illegal for any candidate to have more than two committee rooms in each parliamentary division. Between committee rooms and canvassing and what is euphemistically called "organization," every candidate is now practically held up or blackmailed for large amounts of money, the expenditure of which he is perfectly aware will not do him any good, although the withholding thereof is calculated to do him harm. The Bill was unanimously passed by the House, the members of which, almost to a man, have been victims of the old system.