

gotiating reciprocity treaties. It is self-evident that the country which places no obstacle in the way of her people taking full advantage of the sales of surplus products the people of other countries must necessarily offer, gets reciprocity with the rest of the world. This result is obtained in spite of any effort on the part of other nations to prevent their people reaping an advantage from the import into their own country of goods they were compelled to take in exchange for the goods they exported.

Just in proportion, therefore, as we eliminate the protective element from our tariff will we enjoy reciprocity of trade with the world, placing ourselves in a position to share the benefits that the mistakes of the McKinleys of the various countries are forcing on Great Britain. In a word, every move we make towards a revenue tariff would permit our farmers to obtain a more equitable exchange for their surplus products, and capital would flow to the land. It would enable the urban class to get access to the foreign farmer in spite of hostile tariffs, thus widening our market at home and abroad, giving assurance and steadiness to our food supply. Increase of population would follow as a natural sequence, causing in its turn an expansion of trade. It should never be forgotten that the number of those members of the community who at any time will be able to support themselves in comfort, not being farmers, will always be limited by the number of farmers at home and abroad that they can obtain access to for trading purposes. Free trade gives the people of Great Britain access to the farmers of all countries; hence she is able to support a larger proportionate urban population in a greater degree of comfort than any other country in the world.

As the cause of trade, pointed out in the opening sentence, is the same in all countries, a similar policy would necessarily give any country a similar advantage, but no country in the world is so favorably situated as Canada for unprecedented expansion of population and trade, owing to our wonderful domain of fertile land and resources of forest and minerals, which will be developed in proportion to the extension of agriculture in our own country and in those countries we can obtain access to for trading purposes; and the presence of seventy millions of (economically speaking) badly governed people on our southern borders, had we the courage to follow the example of Great Britain, New South Wales, the Straits Settlements, and Japan in our trade policy, and open our ports to the world,—which, after all, would only be doing to others as we would have others do to us,—would give us a tremendous advantage in inaugurating such a policy. Experience abundantly proves that the countries taking the initiative in this regard are the greatest gainers in all that makes a people great.



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