TARIFF COMMISSION

Of Great Britain Has Issued Memorandum Respecting Proposed Agreement—Interesting Facts and Figures.

The Tariff Commission of Great Britain has just published a lengthy memorandum respecting the proposed agreement between Canada and the United States.

After analyzing trade statistics the memorandum states that little opportunity would seem to be given by the agreement for the United States to capture any Canadian import trade in these articles, there appears to be a large area for an increase in Canadian exportation to the United States, and consequent diversion southwards of Canadian food and agricultural products that now come to the United Kingdom. The figures quoted relate solely to the import trade of each country, and seeing that the removal of the tariff barriers between Canada and the United States makes the North American Continent a single trade territory in which Canadian and United States producers will compete on equal terms, the balance of advantage in respect of these goods should rest with those who have the greatest potentialities of production, namely, the Canadians. In the opinion of British authorities one effect may be expected to be an increase in prices to the British consumer of these food and agricultural products. Canada's opportunities are especially marked in the case of wheat.

"Under the present duty of 25 cents (1s ½d) per bushel, Canada supplies only £5,000 worth for consumption in the United States. This is exclusive of about 400,000 bushels of Canadian wheat which is sent to the United States to be milled there and subsequently exported, upon a drawback of 99 per cent. of the duty. The ability of Canada to take advantage of this new field of export must depend partly upon her capacity of competitive production and also upon the extent to which her export of wheat to the United Kingdom will be diverted through the removal of the United States duty. The maximum wheat production in Canada was in 1909, when it was 160 million bushels. The home requirements may be put at 50 millions, and the seed requirements at about 20 to 25 millions, leaving nominally, on the basis of the Canadian figures, from 85 to 90 million bushels available for export. The United Kingdom is practically Canada's sole market for cheese. The importation reached its maximum in 1906 at 216 million lbs. It declined to 180 million lbs. in 1910. The opening up of the United States market to the Canadian product will, in the opinion of traders, affect seriously prices in the United Kingdom.

The immediate interest of the agreement to the trade of the United Kingdom is, it is pointed out, of a four-fold nature:—(1) The entire removal of the preference on British goods, of which Canada imported £668,000 worth in 1909-10; (2) reduction of the margin of British preference on other British goods, of which Canada imported £439,000 worth in 1909-10; (3) the extension to favoured-nation countries of the reduced Canadian rates on United States products; (4) the preference which Canadian products will enjoy over the United Kingdom in the United States market. Imports of this class from the United Kingdom amounted in 1908-9 to £1,990,000.

The principal items upon which the British preference in the Canadian market will be entirely abolished by the agreement include:—

	Total Canadian Imports in 1910 £	Imports from the U.K. £
Galvanized sheets	410,000	240,000
Rolled sheets, No. 14 gauge or thinner (n.o.p.)	330,000	135,000
Canada plates, etc.; rolled sheets coated with zinc, spelter or other metal (n.o.p.)	162,000	122,000
Glycerine	36,000	26,000

Among the items on which the margin of preference has been reduced are the following:—

	Total Canadian Imports £	Imports from U.K. £	Present Pref. ad val. per cent.	Future Pref. ad val. per cent.
Cutlery	57,000	46,000	10	7½
Plate glass	37,000	24,000	12½	10
Automobiles and parts	412,000	24,000	12½	7½
Leather pocket books, purses, etc.	111,000	24,000	12½	7½
Confectionery	120,000	88,000	12½	10
Pickles, etc	79,000	60,000	10	7½
Biscuits, sweetened	22,000	20,000	10	7½
Baths, bath-tubs, basins, etc.	47,000	7,000	15	12½
Brass band instruments ...	12,000	5,000	10	7½
Watches, clocks, etc.	96,000	9,000	10	7½
Antiseptic surgical dressings, etc.	30,000	10,000	7½	5
Canned meats and meat extracts	38,000	12,000	10	2½
Anchovies, sardines, etc., in oil	48,000	14,000	per box ⅝d., etc.	per box ⅜d., etc.
Cement	32,000	20,000	per 100 lbs. 2¼d.	per 100 lbs. 1½d.

COMMERCIAL INDEPENDENCE OR COMMERCIAL UNION—WHICH?

Hon. Clifford Sifton, M.P., Condemns Reciprocity Agreement—Enthusiastic Meeting at Montreal.

The Laurier Government has suddenly and unwarrantably reversed the policy upon which it was elected to office.

Four times has the Prime Minister deliberately and categorically stated he wanted nothing to do with the Americans and that reciprocity was at an end—that is his own clear statement.

The result of tying ourselves to the United States will be we shall enjoy our present prosperity less when the next panic strikes the United States. and then we shall have the honor and pleasure of sharing that panic instead of going on our way as now.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, M.P.

For almost two hours on Tuesday, the Hon. Clifford Sifton at the Windsor Hall, Montreal, dealt with the proposed reciprocity agreement, analyzing it from every point of view, and condemning it as opposed to the commercial, agricultural and national interests of the country. He declared it would inevitably lead to commercial union with the United States, and this accomplished, he was indifferent how soon the final result of political union should come, since in all essential details we should already have lost our independence.

Reciprocity Plank Adopted.

The tariff policy, said Mr. Sifton, was partially settled in 1897, although it had been altered and improved at various times since then. After the rebuff at Washington in 1898 a fiscal policy was settled upon on which the Liberals appealed to the country in 1900. This was discussed and approved by almost every province of the Dominion, and it was not merely adopted by the Government, but approved by the people then and again in 1904 and 1908, while at not one of these elections was a single syllable breathed regarding reciprocity. There was a reciprocity plank in the Liberal platform adopted at the convention of 1893, when the Liberals also considered that Boston and New York were our national ports, and any attempt to make a Canadian port was a fight against geography.

Mr. Sifton quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier as saying at the Imperial Conference: "There was a time when we wanted reciprocity with the States, but our offers were put aside and negatived, and we have said good-bye to that trade, and now put all our hopes upon British trade."

And again, in 1909, Laurier had said: "Canada has opened her doors to Great Britain in the hope she would ultimately receive similar preferential treatment from the mother country.

"It is, therefore, for these reasons that I say it is the Government who is at fault and not myself or our other friends who oppose this policy. We still support the policy which was advocated before the people of Canada, and desire only that the Government shall stick to the policy which the Government put into effect, and which was so pre-eminently successful in the affairs of the country."

Fiscal Policy Good for Country.

Proceeding, Hon. Mr. Sifton said that the fiscal policy of the Government had been wonderfully successful, that it had improved the trade of the Dominion in every direction, both foreign and interprovincial, to such an extent that the trade had increased from thirty to a hundred millions in fourteen years, while Canada had become one of the most prosperous countries of the world. "We are about the most prosperous nation in the world, and do not need any artificial stimulant. Such stimulants only lead to wild cat speculation, and in the end to distress, poverty and loss, and a loss and distress which does not affect the people who might be able to stand a little loss, but upon the laboring people, who are least able to bear it.

"What we propose to do," said he, "is to take down the bars and let 90,000,000 people, exporting much more than we do, dominate our market and dictate the terms under which we get into the markets of the world. I do not think any business man would succeed very long if he let the big opposition man run his factory for him, and that is what we propose. The Government proposes to let the opposition man in to pull the strings, turn the switches and run the factory."

Wheat Must be Kept Pure, Not Mixed.

As to barley, Hon. Mr. Sifton referred to the talk of barley of twenty years ago, which was cut off by the McKinley tariff. Those who talked so seemed to forget that Canada had progressed during those twenty years, and that what might have been good then was not so now. The farmers could grow barley to-day and feed it to their stock and make more money out of it than they could by selling it across the border, and at the same time preserve the fertility of their land. The argument fell down, except with farmers who wanted the easy method of selling the grain at the expense of their land.

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