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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE:

THE ROOT AMENDMENT.

It is not surprising that President Taft should have fought strenuously against the so-called Root amendment to the reciprocity agreement, which was made by the Committee of Finance of the United States Senate. If the amendment is finally accepted by Congress, it will make an unsatisfactory change in the meaning of the agreement. The Senate Committee has in reality claimed the right to alter the international agreement in the interest of the United States, which often means to the disadvantage of Canada. The resolutions submitted to the Canadian Parliament setting out the provisions of the agreement made at Washington by Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson include among the articles to be admitted from one country to the other free of duty:—

"Pulp of wood, mechanically ground; pulp of wood, chemical, bleached or unbleached; news print paper and other paper and paper board, manufactured from mechanical wood pulp or from chemical wood pulp, or of which such pulp is the component material of chief value, colored in the pulp or not colored, and valued at not more than four cents a pound, not including printed or decorated wall paper.

"Provided that such wood pulp, paper or board, being the products of the United States, shall only be admitted free of duty into Canada from the United States, when such wood pulp, paper or board, being the products of Canada, are admitted from all parts of Canada free of duty into the United States."

The meaning of that clause is clear. When, in accordance with the agreement, the United States admits the articles mentioned free of duty from all parts of Canada the Dominion similarly will admit the same articles free of duty from all parts of the United States. Mr. Root's amendment proposes to acquire from the Canadian government the performance of conditions which are not within its legislative or administrative powers. The amendment desires first to make the admission of Canadian pulp, paper, etc., into the United States free only when it is imported direct, and only,

"On the condition precedent that no export duty, export license fee, or other export charge of any kind whatsoever (whether in the form of additional charge or license fee or otherwise), or any prohibition or restriction in any way of the exportation (whether by law, order, regulation, contractual relation, or otherwise, directly or indirectly), shall have been imposed upon such paper, board, or wood pulp, or the wood used in the manufacture of such paper, board, or wood pulp, or the wood pulp used in the manufacture of such paper or board, and when the President of the United States shall have satisfactory evidence and shall make proclamation that