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Homesteads for Women

By "ISOBEL"

TAKING OFF HER CROP

Dear Isobel:—What is your latest movement in regard to Homesteads? Is there any fresh hope from this government?

You will perhaps remember my telling you when I last saw you in Winnipeg last May, that I still had some of my 1910 crop on hand. I did very well on it, having sold it all at \$1.00 a bushel for No. 1 Nor. This year I am frozen rather badly over an 80 acre summerfallow, but the stubble crop will grade No. 3 or 4 Nor. I thought I was going to bring off a great haul this year, and could have interviewed a whole cabinet on our Homesteads with confidence—but the Gods won't have these hasty arrivals.

Last year I had quality, this year I have quantity, and next year perhaps both. Though a woman farmer, I did not find Jack Frost less courteous to me than to my men neighbors. Providence does not seem to object to homesteads for women.

I thresh this week and am then going through to the coast to report on some women farmers to the English press.

I go to England in November for the winter and should like so much to have a chat with you when I reach the city.

Kind greetings to you and yours.

GEORGINA BINNIE-CLARK.

Note.—Miss Binnie-Clark is a woman of pluck and determination. She came to Canada to farm, to experiment not only for her own benefit but also for the benefit of single women of her own social level left behind in England. Unable to persuade the Dominion government to grant her a free homestead she courageously bought a half-section of land in the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley and started in to pioneer, with the great financial handicap of being compelled to buy her land while her men neighbors got theirs free. Nevertheless she is "making good" and would make a great immigration agent to the old land among women like herself, women of culture and some means, when the Canadian government grants free homesteads to women.

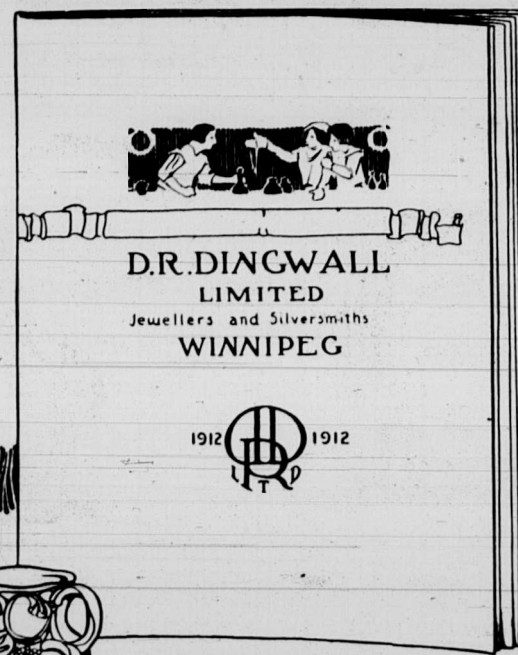
THE AMERICAN VIEWPOINT Springfield Republican

"Reciprocity's defeat in the Canadian elections is a political fact whose magnitude cannot, perhaps, be fully appreciated at the present time. It has an immediate and possibly a remote significance. Americans will observe at once that it is a decided rebuff to their advances in favor of closer trade relations and that the general relations between the two countries cannot be improved by it, although it would be unwarranted to assume that the present friendly intercourse between Canada and the United States can be in the least strained by the development.

"Trade across the International boundary will continue, everyone may be sure. There will be much buying and selling. It is impossible to seal up the imaginary line that divides the continent, and we have no doubt that ultimately the continental forces implanted by Nature will override all the obstacles now interposed by selfish interests and national or imperial prejudices. But for the time being, and one dares not say how long in the future, reaction triumphs.

"Reciprocity could have been carried in Canada 10 years ago. Unfortunately for the cause, it was taken up by a government which had been in power 15 years and had a tremendous burden of political disaffection to contend with. The Laurier regime was approaching a natural dissolution when a republican president of the United States made his offer of a commercial pact reducing tariff duties. For 60 years the Canadians of all parties had desired freer entrance to our markets for their natural products and it must have seemed to the premier that in reciprocity his dying administration would gain a fresh lease of life.

"It is impossible not to feel that if this question could have been presented solely on its naked merits as a question of trade, reciprocity would have carried the day. But the moment it was presented to the people associated with the fortunes of a party and a government it had to share in all their accumulated vicissitudes. How notably this aspect of the situation colored the struggle was shown by the nationalist



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(Signed) J. V. SMITH.

revolt in Quebec under Mr. Bourassa, a French politician, formerly in the Laurier following, whose zeal for the defeat of the ministry was inspired wholly by motives as remote from the question of trade as his own aspirations for French supremacy in the valley of the St. Lawrence are antagonistic to the imperialist sentiments of his Conservative allies in Ontario.

"The immediate effect of reciprocity's defeat upon American politics cannot fail to be considerable. It appears to be a heavy blow to President Taft. What had seemed to be his greatest achievement is suddenly struck dead and all the strain and labor of the special session of Congress that grew out of it are gone to waste. He is left with the burden of his tariff vetoes and his widened breach with the insurgents of his own party, while he has been deprived of the one great success which had crowned his career in the presidency. The Canadian result seems to throw our political situation into a degree of confusion that hitherto has not distinguished it, and the conditions

which Mr. Taft now confronts must tax his abilities to the utmost."

ONTARIO ELECTIONS DEC. 11

Elections of the Ontario legislature will take place on December 11, with nominations one week earlier.

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