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# TAFT NOT WORRYING

their will whichever way they should decide. The President is anxiously watching the press of the country to ascertain the sentiment for the proposed reciprocity.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—President Taft indicated to-day that he is not worrying about the fate of the agreement. In his opinion it is now up to the people of the United States to decide for themselves whether they want it or not. He declared he had advocated other measures which the people did not favor and would bow to their will whichever way they should decide. The President is anxiously watching the press of the country to ascertain the sentiment for the proposed reciprocity.



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# The Toronto Sunday World

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## NIAGARA FRUIT-GROWERS CALL IT RUINOUS BARGAIN CONDEMN TRADE PACT

### Big Meeting Held at St. Catharines Passes a Resolution Calling for Protection of Fruit—Deputation to Go to Ottawa to Press Claims of The Industry.

ST. CATHARINES, Jan. 28.—Several hundred fruit growers from all sections of Niagara district this afternoon gathered here to consider the effects of the elimination of the entry duty on fresh fruits from the United States. The meeting was to have been held in the grand jury room in the county buildings, but so large was the gathering that the court room had to be taken possession of by J. W. Smith, Winona, president Niagara Peninsula Fruit Growers' Association, himself a Liberal in politics, presided. In the opening address he declared the proposed legislation seemed almost revolutionary, as it tended to clean out fruitmen, whereas manufacturers were scarcely touched. Fruitmen cannot get their product into the market without six years' labor, whereas manufacturers can reach the market in one year. Fruit growers as Canadians are entitled to better consideration, as the only fruit that can be well sent to the United States is apples. "All we want is our rights as Canadians and British subjects," he declared in conclusion.

### Fruit-Growers Sacrificed.

The speech of the afternoon was by E. D. Smith, ex-M.P., Wentworth. He suggested that a committee be appointed to draft a resolution expressing the opinion of the meeting. Mr. Smith declared the government had sacrificed the fruit growing industry of Lincoln, Welland and other counties. The proposed legislation will kill fruit growing, both in the Niagara district and in British Columbia, as land that now sells from four to eight hundred dollars per acre will be bought for a hundred dollars if the proposed change goes into effect. The western consumer wants Niagara fruit, but dealers desire California fruit. It would only be a matter of time before the market would belong to local growers. There will now be no more dollar tomatoes in Winnipeg, as the west will be able to get them cheaper from Ohio.

### Vice-President Thompson Agreed

that a deputation should be arranged for. He claimed that fruitmen were in the same line as the manufacturers as regards investments, skill and cost of production, but all protection is swept from the orchard and as a result Canadian growers have to meet American competition with hands practically tied behind their backs for reason of having to pay more for raw material.

### Ruin for Fruit Trade.

E. A. Adams, Leamington, predicted the ruin of the fruit industry in Essex as fruits from Ohio would swamp markets.

James Beamsville, Liberal, and free trader in principle, declared it was bad enough to be struck by enemies, but felt keenly the blows dealt out by friends in the government.

E. D. Smith declared the only chance to organize a deputation of a thousand men who will pay their own expenses to go to Ottawa to lay their claims before the government. This suggestion met with general favor, two hundred men in the meeting standing up and declaring they would do so. T. H. B. Carpenter added that he would pay for four others. J. D. Bennett, who was on the deputation to Ottawa in 1878, when the duty was placed on fruit, declared his willingness to go there again, paying expenses for himself and two, three or more others if necessary.

Dr. Jessop, M.L.A., Lincoln, declared that the Northwest is Niagara district's greatest market. He predicted trouble when provincial rights in pulp lands were trampled upon. On motion of Robert Thompson and A. Onslow, a committee, composed of A. Onslow, W. H. Bunting, F. H. Lowry, P. G. Stuart, E. D. Smith, George A. Robertson, F. Carpenter, J. W. Smith, W. C. McCalla, C. Fisher, J. H. Broderick, W. Jennett, T. G. Bell, R. H. Lewis, A. Adams, T. Rittan and J. Carpenter, was appointed, with the result that the following resolution was submitted to the general meeting.

### Condemn Pact.

"Whereas the government of Canada proposes to admit American fruits and vegetables, if species grown in Canada, free of duty, and whereas there is ample territory in Canada where conditions are suitable to grow and supply to people of Canada all of the

fruits they require now or are likely to require for a quarter of a century to come, at least; whereas trade has been established in these fruits in many cases after great efforts, so that at the present time Canadian fruits and vegetables, in their season, reach all Canadian consumers, and are delivered to them at cost of production, plus legitimate profit of growers, transportation companies and merchants handling same; whereas these Canadian fruits and vegetables are of quality equal to or superior to those grown in the United States; whereas to dislocate this trade, upset present conditions and compel Canadian fruit growers to seek other markets would be a great hardship and financial loss;

### No Fruit Combines.

"Whereas there never has been or, from conditions surrounding industry, are there likely to be any combines of vast scattered interests of these fruit growers to advance prices, situated as they are, over a wide extent of territory and numbering many tens of thousands of people; whereas the amount of money invested in this industry in the firm belief that present or equally satisfactory duties would continue to be charged upon imported fruits, amounts to many million dollars; whereas many thousands of new settlers from Britain and other countries have invested in fruit lands at high prices, fully warranted under present conditions, whose investments we believe will be enormously less value if the duties upon American fruits and vegetables are removed, thus shaking the confidence of future purchasers in the stability of institutions; whereas it is desirable to encourage rather than discourage the sub-division of our enormous areas of valuable fruit lands, settling them with thrifty and industrious and intelligent people.

### Serious Blow.

"Whereas we fully believe that the introduction of American fruits and vegetables free of duty into this country will deal a serious blow to the fruit and vegetable industry of Canada, and in thousands of cases will mean ruin to many in the business who have invested their all in it; this meeting, therefore, respectfully protests against the abrogation of present duties and pleads that the government of Canada may find some other means of curing such evils as they may desire from the United States than the extinction of a now flourishing industry of fruit and vegetable growing."

### Duty to Mother Country to Play Fair.

The resolution carried unanimously amid rounds of applause, and the gathering adjourned, to hold meetings in every municipality in the district during the coming week.

### The Ottawa Free Press, a Liberal paper supporting the Laurier government, thus deals with the Fielding-Knox proposals:

Unless the Dominion Government is prepared immediately to increase the British preference, the step which Canada is asked to take is a very grave one indeed. Reciprocity with the United States may be an historic policy embraced by all political parties since pre-confederation days, as Mr. Fielding says, but in the last 15 years, largely as the result of the unfriendly exclusiveness of the United States, Canada has been making history in another direction—the direction of closer and warmer imperial ties of trade as well as sentiment. Our plans in these years have all been such as that now proposed threaten, or seem to threaten, to upset to a considerable extent those plans unless Canada's existing tariff barriers against England are removed altogether or considerably lowered. In the opinion of the Free Press, the removal or reduction of the tariff against England should precede, not follow, reciprocity with the United States.

The Free Press touches a sensitive point, and one that affects Canada in the tenderest point—the pocket: If we are going to make trade preferences with our neighbors, the United States, and discriminate against the mother country, we are injuring the latter; and it is the mother country that is lending us the millions and millions which have obtained and most obtain for years hereafter for the development of our resources, and the carrying out of our public works. It is our duty to the mother country, who is our first financial aid to play fair. The United States is our competitor in the London market, tho' of late she has not been able to raise the wind, as we have been able to do it. We may not be able to do it later on.

## THE REAL SITUATION.

The World's despatch of Saturday from Washington says that President Taft will call a special session of the new congress after March 4 if the present one fails to confirm the Knox-Fielding deal.

These are brave words, but Mr. Taft must know, as we know, that the next congress will be Democratic in the lower house, and, as far as tariff revision goes in the senate, it will be for reduction, independent of a deal with Canada.

And he ought also to know, as he is now an experienced politician, that the Democrats are not going to allow him to get credit even for a small measure of reduction in tariff when they are pledged to it, and will after March 4 have an opportunity of beginning work in their own way. They are committed to drastic tariff reduction, and they do not intend to let President Taft get a second term, or the Republicans carry the elections of 1912, by taking possession of their platform, even to the extent of a single plank.

The plain duty of Canada is to wait for such reductions in the American tariff that the new congress will give of its own motion, and when Canadians do that they will find that the list of our natural and other products admitted into the United States free, or with reduced duties, will be much greater than any list that is made by arrangement between the two countries.

## HOCKEY EXTRA

### Varsity and Argonauts Play Senior O.H.A. Game on Soft Ice

### Scullers Score First in a Slow Game, Heavy Going Interfering With Both Teams—Penalties Many.

MUTUAL STREET RINK, Jan. 28.—(Special.)—Only a fair crowd turned out to see Argonauts and Varsity play their second senior O.H.A. game. These teams play two games with total goals to count. The Argonauts won the first game by five goals. Argos made a couple of changes, Yule replaced Morgan in goal, and Gordon was on instead of Kennedy. Varsity put on Gall and Keith in place of Curran and Reynolds. The ice was very heavy with water covering the surface in spots.

The line-up: Argonauts: Goal, Yule; point, Murphy; cover, Moore; rover, Kidd; centre, Fleming; right, Brady; left, Gordon. Varsity: Goal, Richardson; point, German; cover, Cuzner; rover, Gall; centre, Keith; right, Harvie; left, Cotton.

Referee: J. B. McArthur. First half—Argos rushed first, but German relieved. Slow ice interfered and Moore was ruled off for two minutes. Murphy stopped German's rush, and rushed well himself; Keith and Gall doing well, as also was Fleming.

### Russia to Force Hand of Chinese

### Will Open a Consulate in Khabdoo; Mongolia, to Facilitate Trade Interests.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 28.—Russia is on the point of employing pressure to improve its trade conditions in Mongolia. It is intended to force China's consent to the opening of a consulate at Khabdoo, in Western Mongolia, thus lifting obstacles now in the way of Russian commerce.

The Novoe Vremya agents upon the government to send to China an ultimatum on the situation, embodying in a threat to occupy Kuluja, Chinese Turkistan, which, from 1871 to 1881, was a Russian possession.

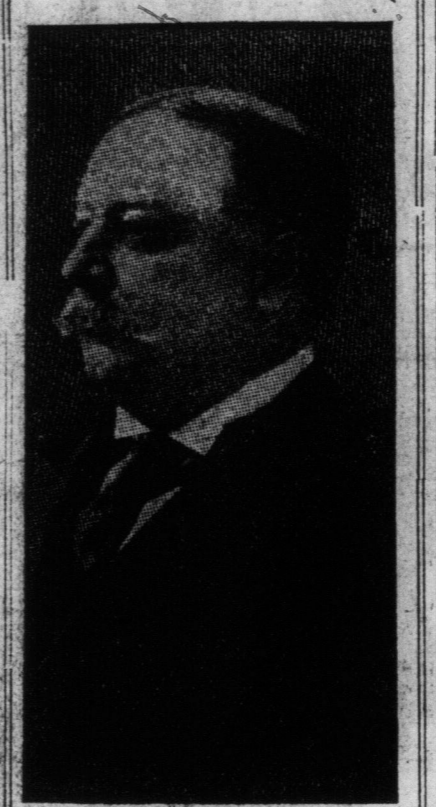
### Contract is Let For New Railway

### Will Skirt St. Lawrence From St. Anne de Beauspre to St. Catharines Bay.

MONTREAL, Jan. 28.—It is learned that a contract has been signed with the Bishop Construction Co. for the building of a railway from a little below St. Anne de Beauspre to St. Catharines Bay, a distance of about 160 miles.

This work, which will pass thru Murray Bay, and will skirt the River St. Lawrence all the way down, is to be Elevator Licenses. About 100 owners of elevators in Toronto have failed to take out their annual license. Summonses will be issued against delinquents on Feb. 1.

## PRESIDENT TAFT



Who is not worrying over the tariff arrangement. "Take it or leave it" is said to be his attitude towards congress.

## PACT A FRAME-UP TO STAVE OFF DEFEAT

### Few Expect That Fielding-Knox Arrangement Will Pass, But Laurier Will Have Support of Certain Classes Who Favor Free Trade.

OTTAWA, Jan. 28.—(Special.)—Forty-eight hours after Mr. Fielding announced the reciprocity bargain the air begins to clear. It is abundantly evident that it is simply a framed-up election appeal. Nobody here seems to think that the United States congress will pass the measure. If not accepted in toto the bargain falls to the ground.

The argument heard frequently to-day is that it is the political campaign appeal of the Liberals at a time when they are admittedly on the verge of going out of power. Any one who knows Sir Wilfrid Laurier agrees that he will not go down to defeat without some spectacular effort to capture the country for another term. Altho the trade bargain was never intended to do to effect the party will have had the help of an appeal to certain classes on free trade grounds. If the complete arrangement went into effect ruin would be the fate of many industries and districts. British Columbia, the Niagara Peninsula, and Nova Scotia would be hit first. The grain growers themselves would be hit in the end, but so the report goes to-day, there is no intention that these sweeping changes should ever take place.

## Immense Plant For Long Sault

### Big Dams, Locks and Canals to Be Erected on the St. Lawrence.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The Malby bill to provide for the connection of dams, locks and canals and other structures in the St. Lawrence River at and near Long Sault Island, in St. Lawrence County, New York, was ordered to be reported to the house to-day by the rivers and harbors committee after limiting the grant to 99 years.

## U. S. GUNBOAT SAFE

### The Wheeling Arrives at Guantanamo, Cuba, All Well.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The gunboat Wheeling arrived in Guantanamo, Cuba, to-day. This advice was flashed to the navy department by wireless, setting at rest the fears for the vessel's safety. It was rumored to have met with an accident at sea.

## TRADE PACT MAY DEFEAT TAFT FOR SECOND TERM

### Issue Precipitated Which May be of Importance in the Next Presidential Campaign—Poll of Congress Indicates Possible Defeat of Measure.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—That President Taft, in sending the reciprocity compact with Canada to congress, and in strongly advocating it, has precipitated an issue which may be of importance in the next presidential campaign, is the belief expressed here. Some of the president's friends are apprehensive lest it stir up powerful opposition to his re-nomination, in which stand-patters will be prominent.

Mr. Taft, in taking up the reciprocity question, felt, his friends say, that it might prove politically disastrous to him. These friends give him credit for earnestly and anxiously desiring reciprocity. He is laying his plans for a determined fight, and will carry the issue to the country.

The lapse of two days since the announcement of the compact has only served to make clearer than ever that its ratification at any time is doubtful. The stand-patters are against it as a rule; so are most of the insurgents. Much depends on the attitude of the Democrats, who, if they were to unite, could force the agreement thru next session. But the signs are that the protection Democrats from the south in the senate will turn against the agreement.

### POLL OF CONGRESS.

Canadian reciprocity faces defeat in the present temper of congress. A poll of the two houses, taken to-day, discloses such opposition to the reciprocal trade agreement as to suggest that all the force of the administration will be necessary to secure action at this session.

The committees to which the agreement has been referred—finance, in the senate, and ways and means, in the house—are apparently in agreement against the plan. By delaying a report on the agreement, either can defeat action.

Arrayed on the side of the members of these committees are most of the stand-patters in both branches of congress. The Republican leaders have learned nothing as a result of the November elections. On the other hand, the Democrats are almost solidly in favor of the agreement.

### EXTRA SESSION LOOMS UP.

An extra session of congress looms up in consequence. President Taft is averse to this action, but there is reason for believing that if assurance could be given that the Democrats will ratify the reciprocal agreement, as submitted, without attempting to tack on to it amendments that would upset the plan, the president would issue the call.

A large non-committal vote in both branches of congress is disclosed by to-day's poll. President Taft is concentrating all of his powers of persuasion on these members, who hold the key to the situation.

### HOW THE POLL STANDS.

Following is an analysis of the poll: In the senate only six Republican members would consent to declare themselves for the agreement. The same number of Democrats also gave a feeble reply. Ten Republicans and one Democrat declared themselves against the agreement. Of the non-committal, twenty-seven are Republicans and twenty-two are Democrats.

In the house seventy-four Democrats avow themselves as favoring the agreement, as do also thirty-nine Republicans. Only one Democrat is openly against, while twenty-four Republicans vote "No." There are fifty-seven Republicans who declare themselves non-committal as yet, and thirty-two Democrats.

Summed up, the Republicans are opposing the agreement on the ground that it is an opening wedge against the protective tariff. The Democrats favor it because it is in line with their promises to reduce the cost of living.

### ON VERGE OF SPLIT.

Republican opposition comes largely from the farming sections, and the farm and manufacturing interests, long in a close combine to keep up the high rates of duty, are at last on the verge of a split. The insurgent Republicans, who battled valiantly during the debate on the Payne-Aldrich bill for lower duties, are solidly opposed to the reductions proposed by the agreement.

An entirely new alignment on the tariff question is impending. In administration circles little difficulty is expected in swinging the manufacturing interests of the east into line. Free raw materials with a slight reduction on manufactured products will be acceptable to the manufacturing trade. The argument is already advanced that, with agricultural and food products reduced or admitted free, and the manufacturing industries protected, the workman will still enjoy high wages, while the purchasing power of his wages will be enhanced thru the cheaper costs of the necessities of life.

### WEST AGAINST EAST.

The agreement calls up a sectional question, which is being furiously discussed in the cloak rooms and halls of congress. The wheat-growing states and the fishing and lumber states are combining to resist the alleged injury to their industries. The old cry of the west against the east is being raised. On the other hand, the friends of the administration propose to believe this is a temporary storm that will blow over, when the agreement is studied with much care.

## Trade Agreement Before Congress

### Administration Bill Submitted and Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Representative McCall of Massachusetts, a member of the ways and means committee, to-day introduced in the house the administration bill to carry out the reciprocity agreement with Canada. The bill was referred at once to the ways and means committee.

## BIG CANADIAN MERGER

### Will Form Concern With \$5,000,000 Capital.

WELLAND, Jan. 28.—The Canadian Steel Foundries, Ltd., has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$5,000,000, with headquarters at Montreal. It is said that it is in this concern the Montreal Steel Company and the Ontario Iron and Steel Company are to be merged. The Ontario Iron and Steel Company's works are at Welland, Ont. A syndicate has obtained a controlling proportion of the stock of each of the companies.

## Would Tie Hands Of the Dominion

### Sir William Mackenzie Believes Trade Agreement a Very Inadvisable One.

Sir William Mackenzie, the Canadian railroad man, says: "I am dead against any such agreement, being convinced that such ties are antagonistic to the best interests of the Dominion. Canada is prosperous enough at the present time. Her hands ought not to be tied."

## SUNDAY WEATHER

Fine and Colder.