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**Canada and the Far South**

Strong adverse criticism of the Reciprocity treaty comes from an unexpected source. Two or three years ago Dr. E. S. Kirkpatrick of Woodstock, an active Liberal, was made Trade Commissioner for Cuba. He retained the position until a short time ago, when he resigned and returned to Canada to attend to his private affairs. Dr. Kirkpatrick has written to the Montreal Star, discussing Canadian opportunities to increase the trade with the Latin-American republics. Incidentally he points out that the Dominion has nothing to gain and much to lose by the treaty with the United States.

Dr. Kirkpatrick is of the opinion that the other twenty republics in America offer far better opportunities for increased Canadian trade than can be found in the United States. He shows that they are now carrying on one-third of the trade of the Western Hemisphere, and are making greater commercial progress than any other part of the world; that Brazil is larger than the United States without Alaska; that Rio de Janeiro has a population of over a million, and last year spent more money on public works than any city in the United States, except New York; that Montevideo is spending \$10,000,000 on her harbor; that Buenos Ayres, the largest city in the world south of the Equator, is growing more rapidly than any city in the United States except two, and has spent \$40,000,000 on her docks; that the Argentine has a larger trade than either Japan or China; that the West Coast of South America has a trade of \$300,000,000, and will spend \$60,000,000 on harbors in the next decade.

After pointing out that the United States has practically no ships trading with these ports and cannot compete in the carrying trade with Britain and other countries, Dr. Kirkpatrick shows that Canada is now allowing a large part of her trade with the Far South to be done through the United States, when it should be a direct commerce. He says that we imported last year 1,445,000 bunches of bananas from the United States, though they were not grown in that country. We have allowed American companies to control this trade and likewise the imports of asphalt from Cuba and other West India Islands. Dr. Kirkpatrick says that it is the same with the mahogany wood trade, and with pineapples, grapefruit and various other tropical products, which we should be importing directly from the places of production.

Again, while Canada expects Reciprocity to provide a United States market for our wheat and flour, American millers have their agents scattered through the West Indies, Central and South America selling bread-stuffs to those countries. Under Reciprocity we should lose to the United States all the market we have in the West Indies and other southern countries, for flour, potatoes and other goods that will cross the border free of duty. The former Trade Commissioner does not know why Canada wants not reach out for the trade of the south in stead of dealing through an intermediary—St. John Standard.

**Barley and Reciprocity.**

The customs duty on Canadian barley has been changed three times during the last twenty-one years. The fluctuations in the price during that period afford an excellent illustration of the loss which would result to the farmer under Reciprocity. From October 1, 1890, to August 27, 1894, the United States customs duty on barley was 30 cents per bushel. From August 27, 1894, to July 24, 1897, the duty was thirty per cent ad valorem, equivalent to a little over ten cents per bushel. On July 24, 1897, the specific duty of thirty cents per bushel was restored and it has been continued ever since.

Of course during a period of 21 years there would naturally be considerable variations in prices, but for purposes of comparison it will be fair to take the three years previous to the reduction of the duty, the three years during which the low duty prevailed and the first three years after the duty of thirty cents per bushel was restored. According to reports of the United States department of agriculture the farm prices of barley averaged 44.26 cents per bushel during 1892, 1893 and 1894 under a specific duty of thirty cents per bushel. In 1895, 1896 and 1897, under a duty of about ten cents per bushel the farm price averaged 34.53, while for 1898, 1899 and 1900, under a specific duty of thirty cents per bushel, the prices averaged 40.8 cents per bushel.

It will be noticed that instead of the Canadian farmer getting an increased price for the barley he sent to the United States as a result of the reduced duty the price came down in the United States. It is reasonable to draw the conclusion that when as a result of Reciprocity large quantities of Canadian barley, wheat and oats are diverted South into the United States, it is more probable that the American prices will come down than that the Canadian prices will go up. History will repeat itself.—St. John Standard.

**What Strawberry Growers May Expect.**

The Fruit Grower, published at Grimsby, Ont., says enough evidence has been forthcoming in the strawberry season of this year to prove that Reciprocity will ruin strawberry growing in Canada. It points out that in anticipation of Reciprocity, American shippers have been over-running the Canadian market in different lines, one of these being strawberries. At the beginning of the Canadian season, Ontario shippers found competing with them in the larger city markets carload lots of United States strawberries. The price at Montreal at the outset was four and five cents a box, the result being that instead of the shipper getting a good price as usual, he got the lowest price of the season. The Fruit Grower asks:

"If a few carloads of American berries, which pay a duty coming in simultaneously with the Canadian strawberries, forced prices down to four and five cents a box, what would be the result if there were no duty at all and the Canadian market was left entirely at the mercy of the Americans?"

The same authority states that strawberries are not the only Canadian farm product to have suffered in price lately. Butter, eggs and lambs have also dropped in prices, it says, not because there was much of these products placed on the market by Canadian farmers, and not because the demand for these products

was any less, but because more American products have been shipped over the border during the past five months in these lines than has been the case in any of the same five months in any year for the past decade.

The Fruit Grower thus comments further upon the situation: "This proves that the American shippers are alive to the situation and are hard after the Canadian market, and are not willing to wait until Reciprocity passes in order to capture it. They have already started to ship across the line, even if to do so they have to pay a high duty. Farmers, who actually believed that Reciprocity would benefit the prices for their butter, eggs, lambs and strawberries, have found out by actual experience that the American products coming in and paying the duty have already lowered the prices of these articles in the Canadian markets, and it is beginning to dawn upon them that if the Canadian markets can be injured under tariff, that it would be utterly ruined under Reciprocity."

The report that United States commission men were in Canada seeking to purchase strawberries is characterized as a scheme intended to deceive the Canadians into acceptance of Reciprocity.

**California Shaking Again.**

San Francisco advices of the 1st. inst. say: Two earthquake shocks, the heaviest since the big shake of 1906, and separated by only a few seconds, jarred the central portion of California and Western Nevada today. The first sharp shock experienced at 2.01 o'clock was followed in a few seconds by one of similar intensity, each lasting about five seconds. Only trivial damage has been reported from any section, but in San Francisco and other cities in the affected area panic seized upon crowds in stores and restaurants and there was a pell mell exodus from the large buildings.

One peculiar feature of the earthquake was that it did not appear to follow the old "fault" in the earth's crust, which has been the play ground of tremblers in the past, but extended from the seacoast eastward to the Sierras, including hitherto exempt mountain areas. It was felt to the northward of Sacramento in the Pacific valley. Southward as far as Fresno and on the coast to Carson and Reno, Nev., the former place experiencing the heaviest shock in its history.

Some slight damage was done to buildings in San Francisco. Heavy stones in the cornice of the Mechanics' Bank building were moved slightly out of alignment, superficial cracks were made in several large office buildings, cornices of the new post office building were disarranged and minor damage was done to the interior walls of a number of other buildings.

Within a few seconds after the first shock many downtown buildings were depopulated in a rush to the streets. Telephones and telegraph service was suspended by the operators deserting their posts. Herbert Hadley, a lodging inmate fell dead of fright and some cases of hysteria, or of cuts, or of bruises suffered in the semipanic were treated at the hospitals.

Santa Rosa, which suffered greater disaster in proportion to its size than did San Francisco in the catastrophe of 1906, scarcely felt the shock. San Jose, another heavy sufferer in 1906, reported that the shock today was the severest experienced since that time but it did no serious damage.

Stockton and Fresno people were frightened by the jarring but there, as in Sacramento, where the state offices were destroyed in a trice as a result of the tremble, the damage to buildings was trifling.

In Reno, Nev., the shock was scarcely felt, but in Carson it was severe. The Federal Court was in session in the Nevada capital and judge, jury, and attorney rushed to the streets.

At the Santa Clara College observatory both reels were thrown off the seismographs. They were immediately replaced, but the record of the disturbance will be incomplete. The mean time clock at the observatory of the University of California was stopped for the first time since the great quake of five years ago. The deep booming reverberations which usually mark disturbances of wide spread character accompanied the first tremor. In San Francisco the groaning and crackling of the steel structures played a large part in frightening people.

The dictaphone is the little instrument which proved the undoing of a number of hard working legislators in Ohio. It can be so arranged that a conversation carried on in one room can be taken down by a stenographer and witnesses in an adjoining room with the victims none the wiser. As a graft catcher it has proved a huge success, but it is only in the infancy of its possibilities. When every girl owns one of these silent willing little workers, there will be fewer breach of promise suits. When gaw, deceiving man knows that his words of burning love and four-flush promises are probably being registered in shorthand and listened to by the trusting girl's crafty parents in the next room, he will be careful what he says about giving up smoking and latches. The dictaphone will play hob with romance and courtship will be reduced to a stern, cold, hard-cash basis.—(Oregon Sentinel.)

The London Standard of Empire interprets President Taft's New York speech by saying that the President explained "His clear desire to build up a United States-Canada commercial union which should strangle the growth within the British Empire of the practical ideal of Imperial union based upon preference." It is the hope of the Standard of Empire that the speech will be most carefully studied in the Empire's premier Dominion and in England.—(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

Advertisement for Tea Party at St. Charles Station on Wednesday July 26th appears in this issue.

The shipping strike going on for some time at the shipping ports of Great Britain came to an end on Monday, and steamers detained at the piers were able to get away without much further delay.

The government dredge Delver sank without warning in the harbor at St. Andrew's, N. B., at one o'clock Sunday morning from some cause as yet unknown. Only four men were on board at the time and they effected their escape with some difficulty. The craft lies in twenty-five feet of water at low tide with only the top of her deckhouse showing.

**The Market Prices.**

Butter, .....	0.19 to 0.21
Eggs, per doz. ....	0.14 to 0.16
Fowls, .....	0.10 to 0.12
Chickens per pair. ....	0.80 to 0.80
Flour (per cwt.) .....	0.90 to 0.92
Beef (small) .....	0.07 to 0.14
Beef (quarter) .....	0.08 to 0.10
Mutton, per lb. ....	0.08 to 0.09
Pork .....	0.72 to 0.8
Potatoes (bush) .....	0.40 to 0.45
Hay, per 100 lbs. ....	0.45 to 0.50
Risk Oats .....	0.40 to 0.42
Hides (per lb.) .....	0.09 to 0.06
Calf Skins .....	0.13 to 0.14
Sheep pelts .....	0.00 to 0.00
Oatmeal (per cwt.) .....	0.00 to 0.00
Turkeys .....	0.00 to 0.00
Turkeys (per lb.) .....	0.00 to 0.00
Geese .....	0.00 to 0.00
Pressed hay .....	8.50 to 10.00
Straw .....	0.20 to 0.25
Ducks per pair .....	0.00 to 0.00

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June 12, 1907.

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