

The Colonist.

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THE PULP INDUSTRY

The following extract from the Paper Trade Journal of New York is cited by our evening contemporary as an answer to what Mr. Barnard has said is likely to be the effect of the pulp provision in the reciprocity agreement:

The promulgation last week of the new customs regulations governing the admission of wood, wood pulp and print paper from Canada, made necessary by the passage of the reciprocity bill by Congress, expected as they should have been, came nevertheless as a pronounced shock to many manufacturers in paper making centres. Not until they saw the law actually in force did some of them realize that wood paper and its principal constituents had been removed from the prescribed circle of reciprocal relations and made to constitute a class independent of action by the Dominion government. It is late now to hold indignation meetings or raise a show of protest. A gift of the news print industry has been made to Canada, to please the newspaper publishers of this country, whose support was necessary to the success of the entire reciprocity plan.

Our contemporary makes no comment or explanation of this extract, leaving its readers to infer from it, if they choose, that the market of the United States has been thrown wide open to Canadian pulp and paper. Such an inference might very readily be drawn from the paragraph by any person who does not know what it really means. Perhaps our contemporary itself does not understand. Therefore for its benefit and for the benefit of others who may be misled into thinking that all Canadian pulp and paper is now admitted into the United States duty free, we may point out that the reciprocity agreement provides that pulp and paper, produced from timber grown on land in Canada from which pulp wood can be exported into the United States, shall be admitted free into that country. The whole agreement, which is now the law of the United States, can be brought into force at any time by an order of the United States treasury. An order has been issued bringing into force the provision relating to pulp, and therefore pulp and paper manufactured from wood grown on lands in Canada from which pulp wood can be exported are admitted free into the United States. The only difference this makes as to what Mr. Barnard said is that the condition, which he spoke of as likely to arise after reciprocity, has already arisen.

IN A RIGHT BOX

There is not much use of wasting powder and shot upon Dr. Macdonald, Liberal candidate in Yale-Cariboo, for he is as good as defeated already; but it may be of general interest to know that this staunch advocate of reciprocity was present at the meeting of the Vernon Board of Trade, which on January 19th of this year it passed the following resolution unanimously:

That the Vernon Board of Trade views with alarm the movement recently advanced by the grain growers of the prairies for reciprocity in natural products with the United States as such adjustment of the tariff would be a material disadvantage to the fruit growing industry, which is still in its infancy in this province. This meeting is strongly of the opinion that no reduction in the tariff should be permitted by the Dominion Government.

And it is further resolved that copies of this resolution be wired to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. Sidney Fisher, Senator Bostock and Martin Burrell.

And it is further resolved that in the opinion of this meeting the tariff on lumber should be left unchanged.

It is only fair to Dr. Macdonald to say that he stated at the meeting that he was in favor of the principle of reciprocity as a general proposition. The value of the incident is that it affords proof out of the mouth of a Liberal candidate that the admission of fruit into British Columbia free of duty would be injurious to the fruit industry in this province.

FARM LANDS ON THE ISLAND.

A well known resident of this community, who recently purchased a very considerable area of land, which would hardly have been taken into account by any one in estimating the probable area of farm land on Vancouver Island, says a very large proportion of it consists of good soil. Before purchasing it he had no idea at all that this was the case. He bought it for quite another purpose and has been surprised to find out that there is so much arable land, where most people would have expected to find none at all. What is true of this area is doubtless true of many other areas, for it is hardly possible that the gentleman referred to selected the only part of the island of which this could be said. Any person who has driven up the road leading to the top of Mount Sicker must have observed how very large a part of the distance is over good soil as is shown by the places where the hill has been cut into. The truth of

the matter will doubtless be found to be that hundreds of thousands of acres of land that no one has as yet ever taken into consideration in all in estimating the agricultural possibilities of the island, will be found to be well fitted for farming.

We are very strongly inclined to the opinion from what we have been able to learn that the Canadian Northern between this city and Barkley Sound will, before many years have passed, be bordered for the most part by agricultural communities. At present much of the best land is heavily timbered, but the timber will be cut off in a short time because of its proximity to transportation, and it is safe to say that the logged-off areas will be brought under cultivation. Some criticism has been directed against the provincial government because it has allowed tracts of land suited to farming to be included in timber licenses; but the point is not well taken, for it would be a grievous mistake to permit settlers to destroy our best timber for the purposes of making farms. The timber can never be restored, and therefore it ought not to be destroyed. The land will remain there after the trees have been cut, and it is for the interest of the whole community that the timber shall be utilized before the farmer is permitted on the ground. The stand of timber on some of the land of the class referred to runs above forty thousand superficial feet to the acre. This is the greatest crop the land will ever carry, no matter how skillfully it may be cultivated.

But the point we wish to make is not a defence of the policy of the government, but to emphasize our strong conviction that the agricultural possibilities of Vancouver Island have been very greatly underestimated, and that it will be discovered in good time that we can support as large a farming population here as can be supported by any other part of Canada of similar area.

HOW PARTIES STAND

We have been asked to give a statement of how parties stand in the House of Commons from the provinces west of Lake Superior. We will give a statement of how they stand throughout the whole Dominion.

Province—	Cons.	Libs.
Yukon	1	—
British Columbia	5	2
Alberta	3	4
Saskatchewan	1	3
Manitoba	8	2
Ontario	50	36
Quebec	12	52
New Brunswick	2	11
Nova Scotia	5	11
Prince Edward Island	1	3

In the Quebec contingent are included all who are opposed to the Laurier ministry, whether they are Conservatives or Nationalists. This gives the Opposition 87; Government 132. Answering specifically the question that has been put to us we may say the parties west of Lake Superior stand Conservatives, 17; Liberals, 18.

PRICES AND WAGES

Our evening contemporary says it is "a fool argument" to say that the prices of commodities has any effect upon the labor market. Our contemporary has a short memory. A couple of months or so ago it argued that British Columbia could not compete with the state of Washington in the lumber market because of the lower cost of production there, and it attributed this lower cost to the relative cheapness of food-stuffs in that state. It may remember that we had a discussion on this point, and that this paper pointed out that if lumber could be produced more cheaply in the United States because of a reduction in the cost, the cost must be reduced in British Columbia, if we are going to be able to compete in the United States. Later we showed that a British Columbia lumber house found it cheaper to buy lumber for sale in Calgary from a saw mill in the United States than to ship lumber from its own mills. This seemed to bear out what our contemporary had said about the lower cost of production in the United States. At this our contemporary grew very angry and accused us of all manner of wicked things.

Now may we ask our contemporary, to speak freely and without the use of too many adjectives, for it is too early in the campaign for their use, and say whether or not it is true, as it is alleged, that the cost of producing lumber is less in the United States than it is in British Columbia, and just what bearing the alleged lower cost of commodities in that country has to do with this reduced cost of production? As a rule we do not care to devote very much attention to arguments advanced by any contemporary, preferring as far as possible to make out our own case from our own point of view; but we must make an exception in the case of reciprocity. If as our contemporary stated at the time referred to it costs less to produce lumber in the United States than it does in this country, it must be because either the logs cost less on the stump, or it cost less to get them to the mill, or the cost of manufacture is less. This lower cost of production, if it exists as our contemporary alleges, not being due to the lower cost of logs on the stump for

every one knows that stumpage is higher in the state of Washington than in British Columbia, must of necessity be due to a lower wage scale.

We are not making any statements ourselves upon either of these points, except as to stumpage. We are only taking our contemporary's own position for the purpose of showing that if it was right now in saying that the alleged lower price of provisions in the United States makes the cost of producing lumber there cheaper than in this province, it must contemplate a reduction of wages in this province as the result of the promised reduction in the cost of living. For ourselves we take no stock at all in this repeated statement that the cost of living will go down as the result of reciprocity, for the reductions in duty are only sufficient to permit the United States producer to throw his surplus upon our market and not enough to affect the cost of commodities to the consumer. We are not given to making predictions, but we venture one, namely that it will not cost the average man in Victoria one dollar less a year to live after reciprocity, if it comes into force, than it does now.

It costs \$5 to kiss a girl you do not know in the street in London, Ontario. The magistrate said he would have made the fine lighter if the young man had admitted the offence. The man should have pleaded guilty and pleaded the attractiveness of the girl in justification. Then he might have been paid a reward.

Those who watch the progress of politics in the United States will be interested to note that there is every prospect of the Senate becoming Democratic. If this proves to be the case, we may look for a very confused state of things in the Republic for some years to come. The Democrats doubtless mean well, but they seem unable to convince people engaged in commerce or industries that they know how to act in the country's interest. Everything seems to point to a prolonged period of business unrest in that country.

We are told that reciprocity will decrease the cost of the necessaries of life and broaden the market of those who produce them. It ought not to be too much to expect our Liberal friends to take either one side of the case or the other. If our farmers are going to enter the United States market and sell in competition with producers there and make more money than by selling their produce at home, how can United States farmers come here and reduce the price of produce here? The proposition will not work out, for one thing cannot be both greater and less than another at the same time.

Granting for the sake of the argument that two Conservative candidates in Quebec may be all the evening paper says of them, may we respectfully ask it to tell us what bearing that may have upon the reciprocity question, which our contemporary would have us believe is the only issue now before the electors? We fancy that if we searched through the utterances of all the Liberal public men, we could discover not only one but many things to which Mr. Templeman would not subscribe. Indeed, we need go no further than the adjoining constituency. Mr. Ralph Smith is a gentleman by whose side Mr. Templeman would be glad to sit in parliament. Yet Mr. Smith has come out flat-footed as a free trader. He is going to support reciprocity because he is a free trader and because reciprocity is a step in the direction of free trade. Mr. Templeman hopes to "sit unpretentiously cheek by jowl" with Mr. Smith; but Mr. Templeman will not endorse Mr. Smith's fiscal heresy. He will not tell the electors of Victoria that he wants them to support reciprocity as the first step towards free trade.

We observe that the Liberal candidates in Halifax are telling the electors what great things the Canadian navy will mean for that city. We do not observe, however, that Mr. Templeman or Mr. Ralph Smith devote very much attention to that exceedingly interesting theme. It may be recalled that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in Victoria, those who surrounded him, so as to keep the bears away were mighty careful to make it impossible for him to be asked or even to say a word about what the navy would mean for Esquimaux. They would not even take him down to the dockyard, for fear, we suppose, that something might be expected of him in such a very suggestive place. We think the reason Mr. Templeman says nothing about building any of the war vessels here or providing a great dry-dock is because he cannot say anything. He does not believe that anything of the kind will be done, and therefore he does not say it will be. This may be very honest, but the point is that he and Mr. Smith ought not to have allowed themselves to be put in such a position as prevents them from making any promise that are worth the breath it takes to utter them. It would be interesting if these gentlemen or either of them would tell the electors just what they said or did to secure the building of any warships here, and what answer they got.



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Further pursuing was considered on the endeavor to apply duty to ourselves as all the effect of determining always that gently. In physical what they call "wo when they do not kn solutely correct, the it is found to be tr of investigation. If the tendency of all free to move, is to the earth. We the there is some force ter to which this is this is the explan gravitation is really sis, doubtless an hypothesis, but o all; for we can tainty that the s duced by some othe yet ignorant. Scie advance by assumi various elements; discover evidence to belief that there is stance in all nature a hypothesis, and h one, for we cannot ly sure about it.

In treating of st ligious or spiritual l cles is to deal with spirit as a questio science would be t sons will read this a a Psalm or a serm ready to think abo things, but they w without any appeal call superstition. Herbert Spencer's cecity in nature o but that is the way it may be pointed o obligation to believ tralia, but, if they tr place where other p would come to grie or not you believe H in believing that H lot of wise people H Him with a microsc ago some one wro mythical person ca a Being called the I of ringing sarcasm. asked Job?" Job find out God?" Jo he would have been not; and our great or fifty centuries, b along that line of Patriarch, or whate so we get the gr cleared a little by from your being up existence of a Deity the ignoramus of

Therefore if yo things that relate t life, the first thing with an open mind, that you feel yo referring it to your d and reason, why d honest with yourse not cheat yourself, know it; you ought self in dealing with no matter how mu norance, relate to a not merely physica

Let us then, ply as a working of necessity be t gree, for it assum of infinite wisdom, love, and a finite n such things. The n can do with anythi give some vague i Church presents ce creeds, or whatever them, and all the C you will give these if they are not a thesis for the gove spiritual life. The no one ever yet t possibility of perso Christ without fin hypothesis, and an a fact that you ca measure with a tap to tell any intellig things in the world way. You cannot or love, or anythi applying such tests otic, but you can't put it on the table contemplate. You if he should say to he knew he loved more since he fir Speaking of things said: "These thing The Church says cept her teaching, that by faith in Chr is born into a wh into an atmospher