

# Reciprocity

By

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Secy Canadian Council of Agriculture, in the  
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The question of reciprocity in trade between Canada and the United States is not by any means a new one. It dates back to the year 1846, when, by the triumph of the free trade party in England, the old preferences on colonial products in the British market were removed. The removal of these preferences, and the fact that Canadian natural products were shut out of United States markets by high duties, were productive of much commercial depression and political unrest in Canada. Several movements resulted from these conditions, one of which, with headquarters at Montreal, aimed at the severance of the tie between Canada and the Motherland, and annexation to the United States as a means by which Canada might enjoy the then abounding prosperity of the latter country. While it is doubtful if this movement ever would have resulted in the annexation of Canada to the United States, for Canadian national sentiment was a strong factor then, as now, yet there was strength enough in it to move England to give to Canada power to negotiate a treaty of reciprocity with her neighbor. Lord Elgin, then governor-general of Canada, writing in March of 1848 to the British colonial secretary, said: "There has been a vast deal of this talk about annexation. A great deal of this talk is undoubtedly bravado, and a great deal the mere product of thoughtlessness. Undoubtedly, it is in some quarters the utterance of a very serious conviction; and if England will not make the sacrifices which are absolutely necessary to put the colonists here in as good a position as the citizens of the United States—in order to which free navigation and reciprocal trade with the States are indispensable—the end may be nearer than we wot of." This phase of the question, added to the undoubted desire of the British North American colonies for reciprocal free trade with the United States, induced Great Britain not only to consent to a treaty of reciprocity between the colonies and the States, but to use her good offices in bringing it about. The proposal came from Canada, the people of the United States being either indifferent or unfavorable to the arrangement. A series of reciprocity measures, beginning in 1849, were rejected by the United States Senate, and it was not until 1854 that the Elgin-Marcy treaty was adopted by that body. Strange to say, while fear that the annexationist movement in Canada would gain ground was one of the reasons which induced England to aid Canada in the negotiations of the treaty, it was also a factor in obtaining its ratification by the United States Senate. According to Porritt, "Southern Senators, who, in 1853, constituted the pivotal section of the Democratic party then dominant at Washington, were by this time in favor of reciprocity, because they feared that unless trade conditions were improved, the annexation movement of 1849 might become serious. If the British North American provinces should come into the Union they feared that the balance of power at Washington between the slave states and the free states would be jeopardized." So that, instead of the just reciprocity treaty being regarded as a step towards annexation, it was regarded on both sides of the line as a measure calculated to still the annexationist agitation.

## The Elgin-Marcy Treaty

In 1854 the Elgin-Marcy reciprocity treaty came into force, and continued in force until 1866. These twelve years are remembered as the most prosperous in Canadian history. Canadian natural products were for the first time admitted free of duty into the United States. The great lakes were covered with sails carrying the products of Ontario farms to the markets of the States. A score of lake ports sprang into activity and prosperity. Ontario farm values largely increased. In the Maritime Provinces, too, the effects were very beneficial. Speaking of this period, Sir Louis

# The Reciprocity Agreement

NOTE:—Many readers of The Guide ask for information upon the reciprocity agreement, so we here reproduce it from our issue of Feb. 8. This is the agreement as it passed the United States Congress and as it is now before the Canadian people.—Editor

ARTICLES	CANADIAN TARIFF			United States Tariff	Rates now proposed for both United States and Canada	Reduction by United States	Reduction by Canada
	Preferential	Intermediate	General				
Cattle	15 per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.	Free	Free	Free	25 per cent.
Less than one year old				\$2 per head		\$2 per head	
Valued at not more than \$14 per head				\$3.75 per head		\$3.75 per head	
Valued at more than \$14 per head				27½ per cent.		27½ per cent.	
Horses and mules				Free			
Horses over one year old, valued at \$50 or less	\$10.	\$12.50	\$12.50				\$12.50
Horses, N.O.P.	15 per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.				25 per cent.
Valued at \$150 or less per head				\$30 per head		\$30	
Valued at over \$150				25 per cent.		\$25 per cent.	
Swine	1c. per lb.	1½c. per lb.	1½c. per lb.	\$1.50 each		\$1.50 each	1½c. per lb.
Sheep and lambs	15 per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.				25 per cent.
Less than one year old				75c. per head		75c. per head	
One year old or over				\$1.50 per head		\$1.50 per head	
Other live animals	15 per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.	20 per cent.		20 per cent.	25 per cent.
Poultry, dead and alive							
Alive	15 per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.	3c. per lb.		3c. per lb.	25 per cent.
Dead	12½ "	17½ "	20 "	5c. "		5c. "	20 "
Wheat, per bushel	8 cents	10 cents	12 cents	25 cents		25 cents	12 cents
Rye "	7 "	9 "	10 "	10 "		10 "	10 "
Oats "	7 "	9 "	10 "	15 "		15 "	10 "
Barley "	10 "	12½ "	15 "	30 "		30 "	15 "
Buckwheat "	10 "	12 "	15 "	15 "		15 "	15 "
Beans, edible, dried, per bushel	15 "	22½ "	25 "	45 "		45 "	25 "
Pease, dried, per bushel	10 "	12½ "	15 "	25 "		25 "	
Potatoes, per bushel	12½ "	17½ "	20 "	(seed pease 40c.)		40 "	15 "
Corn (except into Canada for distillation)	Free	Free	Free	25 cents		25 "	20 "
Sweet potatoes, per bushel	7 cents	9 cents	10 cents	15c. per bushel		15c. per bushel	
Yams	15 per cent.	27½ per cent.	30 per cent.	25 cents		25 cents	10 "
Turnips	15 "	27½ "	30 "	25 per cent.		25 per cent.	30 per cent.
Onions	15 "	27½ "	30 "	25 "		25 "	30 "
Cabbages	15 "	27½ "	30 "	40c. per bushel		40c. per bushel	30 "
All other vegetables in their natural state	15 "	27½ "	30 "	2c. each		2c. each	30 "
Fresh fruits, viz:—				25 per cent.		25 per cent.	30 "
Apples	25c. per bbl.	35c. per bbl.	40c. per bbl.	25c. per bushel		25c. per bushel	40c. per bbl.
Pears	17½ per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.	25c. "		25c. "	25 per cent.
Peaches	67c. per 100 lbs.	90c. per 100 lbs.	\$1 per 100 lbs.	25c. "		25c. "	\$1 per 100 lbs.
Grapes	1½c. per lb.	1¾c. per lb.	2c. per lb.	25c. per cub. ft. cap. of bbls. or packages		25c. per cub. ft. cap. package	2c. per lb.
Wild blueberries, wild strawberries and wild raspberries	Free	Free	Free	1c. per quart		1c. per quart	
Blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries, n.o.p.	1½c. per lb.	1¾c. per lb.	2c. per lb.	1c. per quart		1c. per quart	2c. per lb.
All other edible fruits in their natural state, n.o.p.	17½ per cent.	22½ per cent.	25 per cent.	Free or 25 p.c.		Free or 25 p.c.	25 per cent.
Dried apples	17½ "	22½ "	25 "	2c. per lb.		2c. per lb.	25 "
Dried peaches, pears and apricots	17½ "	22½ "	25 "	2c. "		2c. "	25 per cent.
Butter	3c. per lb.	4c. per lb.	4c. per lb.	6c. per lb.		6c. per lb.	4c. per lb.
Cheese	2c. "	3c. "	3c. "	6c. "		6c. "	3c. "
Fresh milk	15 per cent.	17½ per cent.	17½ per cent.	2c. per gal.		2c. per gal.	17½ per cent.
Fresh cream	15 "	17½ "	17½ "	5c. "		5c. "	17½ "
Eggs	2c. per doz.	2½c. per doz.	3c. per doz.	5c. per doz.		5c. per doz.	3c. per doz.
Honey	2c. per lb.	2½c. per lb.	3c. per lb.	20c. per gal.		20c. per gal.	3c. per lb.
Garden, field and other seeds not herein otherwise provided for, when in packages weighing over one pound each, not including flower seeds	5 per cent.	10 per cent.	10 per cent.	from 15c. per bus. to 20c. per lb.		15c. per bushel to 20c. per lb.	10 per cent.
Grass seed, including timothy and clover seed	5 per cent.	10 per cent.	10 per cent.	Free			10 per cent.
Flaxseed or linseed, per bushel	7½c.	10c.	10c.	25c.		25c.	10c.
Cotton seed and all other oil seeds	5 per cent.	10 per cent.	10 per cent.	Free			10 per cent.
Hay, per ton	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$2	\$4 (2,240 lbs.)		\$4 (2,240 lbs.)	\$2
Straw	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$2	\$1.50 (2,240 lbs.)		\$1.50 (2,240 lbs.)	\$2
Extract of hemlock bark	Free	Free	Free	4c. per lb.		4c. per lb.	
Glycerine, crude, not purified	Free	Free	Free	1c. per lb.		1c. per lb.	
Fish—							
Mackerel, fresh, pickled or salted, per pound	½ cent.	¾ cent.	1 cent.	1 cent.		1 cent.	1 cent
Herrings, fresh	½ "	¾ "	1 "	½ "		½ "	1 cent
Pickled or salted	30c. per 100 lbs.	45c. per 100 lbs.	50c. per 100 lbs.	50c. per 100 lbs.		50c. per 100 lbs.	50c. per 100lbs.
Smoked or kippered, per lb.	½ cent.	¾ cent.	1 cent.	½ cent.		½ cent.	1 cent
Halibut and salmon, fresh, pickled, or salted, per lb.	½ "	¾ "	1 "	1 "		1 "	1 "
Cod, haddock, ling, pollock, fresh, salted or pickled, per lb.	½ "	¾ "	1 "	¾ "		¾ "	1 "
Boneless, per lb.	½ "	¾ "	1 "	1¼ cents		1¼ cents	1 "
Eels and smelts, fresh or frozen, per lb.	½ "	¾ "	1 "	¾ cent.		¾ cent.	1 "
All other, fresh, pickled or salted, per lb.	½ "	¾ "	1 "	¾ "		¾ "	1 "
Salmon and all other fish, prepared preserved, n.o.p.	17½ per cent.	27½ per cent.	30 per cent.	30 per cent.		30 per cent.	30 per cent.
If in packages containing less than half a barrel				30 "		30 "	
United States (minimum 30 p.c.)							
Oysters							
Shelled in bulk, per gal.	7 cents	9 cents	10 cents	Free			10 cents
Shelled, in cans not over one pint, including the duty on cans, per can	2 "	2½ "	3 "	"		"	3 "
Shelled, in cans over one pint and not over one quart, including the duty on cans, per can	3 "	4½ "	5 "	"		"	5 "
Shell, in cans exceeding one quart in capacity, including the duty on cans, per quart	5 cents	4½ cents	5 cents	Free		Free	5 cents
Lobsters, fresh	15 per cent.	20 per cent.	25 per cent.	"		"	25 per cent.
" canned	17½ "	27½ "	30 "	"		"	30 "
Fresh water fish	½ cent.	¾ cent.	1 cent.	¾ cent.		¾ cent.	1 cent
All other fish the produce of the fisheries	15 per cent.	20 per cent.	25 per cent.	Shell fish free, other fish ¾c. per lb.		Free or ¾c. per lb.	25 per cent.
Fish oil—							
Cod liver oil	12½ per cent.	20 per cent.	22½ per cent.	15c. per gallon		15c. per gallon	22½ per cent.
Seal, herring, whale and other fish oil	12 1-3 per cent.	20 "	22 1-3 per cent.	8c. "		8c. "	22½ "
Feldspar, crude, powdered or ground	Free	Free	Free	20 p.c. (ground)		20 per cent.	
Fluorspar	"	"	"	\$3 per ton		\$3 per ton	
Mica, unmanufactured and rough trimmed and mica, ground or bolted	15 per cent.	17½ per cent.	20 per cent.	20 per cent.		20 per cent.	20 per cent.
Talc, ground, bolted, or precipitated, naturally or artificially, not for toilet use	Free	Free	Free	1c. per lb.		1c. per lb.	
Plaster rock or gypsum, crude, not ground	"	"	"	30c. per ton		30c. per ton	
Salt, in bulk	"	4c. per 100 lbs.	5c. per 100 lbs.	7c. per 100 lbs.		7c. per 100 lbs.	5c. per 100 lbs.
Salt, in bags, barrels and other coverings	"	6½c. "	7½c. "	11c. "		11c. "	7½c. "