

## Canadian Farmers Will be Hard Hit By U.S. Reciprocity

Products of Twelve Other Nations Must Come in Free--Their Doors Remain Shut on Canada--Mr. Borden Drags Admissions from Mr. Fielding--The Hansard Report.

The desperate efforts made by Mr. Fielding in the House recently to avoid giving prominence to the fact that one effect of the Reciprocity agreement with the United States will be to enable no less than twelve foreign countries to have their natural products and manufactured articles come into this country on the same terms as granted to the United States, but with no corresponding reductions in duties to Canada, show that the government when brought to bay realizes the one-sided nature of the bargain.

When questioned on this point, Mr. Fielding indulged in all manner of evasions and surges to escape giving a direct answer, and it was only by sharp cross-questioning on the part of Mr. Borden that the truth was finally dragged out. The pages of Hansard have rarely disclosed a more lamentable example of quibbling on the part of a minister of the Crown.

The matter was brought up by Mr. Reid who complained that an answer on the subject given by the Finance Minister a few days previously, in reply to a question put by Mr. Sharpe, was indefinite and had a tendency to mix the question up so that people would not understand it. He pointed out that in his answer Mr. Fielding brought in France, which was not a party to the agreement, thereby confusing the issue.

### A Plain Question.

In order to get a definite answer out of Mr. Fielding, Mr. Reid propounded the following question:—"If the proposed arrangement of the tariff with the United States is passed, will the following countries be allowed to import goods into Canada on the same terms as allowed the United States, viz.: Argentina, Republic of Austria-Hungary, Bolivia, Columbia, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela?"

Mr. Fielding replied evasively that this question was covered by the answer given to Mr. Sharpe, and objected to answering it yes or no. Mr. Reid bided his time and on going into Ways and Means returned to the attack. After naming the twelve countries in his question he said, as he understood it, these were the twelve favored nation countries and, as he understood it, every one of these countries would be entitled to ship their farm products into Canada and to compete with our own farmers if the treaty went through.

### Hansard's Report.

Mr. Reid continued:—"Butter from Denmark can come in to Montreal in competition with our Canadian butter, and come in free, butter from Australia can come in to British Columbia and flood the market there, and the same remark applies to every other country I have named. Now, when this deputation of Western farmers was down here last fall, and they were asking for a lower tariff with the United States, we did not hear either the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister, who received that deputation, telling them: Gentlemen, if we carry out your wishes, there will be twelve other countries allowed to send in their stuff and compete with yours. If the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Customs had stood up then and told us that the United States was going to have the advantage of our goods, you are going to have to compete with yours, and these from all these countries coming in here free, I venture to say that if the government had told the Western farmers this, they would have turned round and said: Don't make any such arrangement with the United States."

### To Get The Facts.

Now, my object in asking that question was that the farmers of this country, from one end to the other, would understand what the effect of this arrangement would be, and whether it allows twelve other countries besides the United States, and the British colonies to send their goods in here free. There are members of this House who, until a few days ago, did not really understand the whole situation; and why should not the Minister of Finance, when this question is asked him, jump up in irritation and tell the people the plain truth. I VENTURE TO SAY THAT THE MINISTER OF FINANCE DARE NOT GO OUT INTO THE NORTH-WEST TO-DAY AND TELL THESE FARMERS THAT ALL THESE COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO IMPORT THEIR STUFF FREE INTO CANADA. EVERY FARMER WHO HAS HIS OWN LAND AND WHO WHEN HE IS TOLD THAT THERE ARE TWELVE OTHER COUNTRIES GOING TO HAVE THE SAME ADVANTAGE AS THE UNITED STATES, IS OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSITION. The whole course of the Minister of Finance shows that he is trying to deceive the people of this Dominion as to the true position of the matter. I want the Minister of Finance to answer that question, yes or no.

### Dodging.

Mr. Fielding:—I have no right to speak. My hon. friend has asked a question, and I could not answer it in any plain English than I used in answering the same question more comprehensively put by the hon. member for North Ontario (Mr. Sharpe). I think the hon. member understands it well enough, but it suits his purpose to pretend that he does not. This continued evasion brought Mr. Borden to his feet and he began a vigorous cross-examination of the Finance Minister. It was "like pulling teeth" as a sympathetic Conservative remarked, an answer after answer was wrung from Mr. Fielding.

### Hansard continues:—

"Mr. Borden:—I do not regard the

answer as entirely definite. The reference in it is to dutiable goods, it says nothing at all about the free list. I suppose there was an obvious intention in making that omission. Why should not the hon. gentleman be able to inform this House, in the first place—

Mr. Fielding:—On what point?

One By One.

Mr. Borden:—Whether the Argentine Republic will have the same right with the United States to send its goods into our territory?

Mr. Fielding:—That is answered.

Mr. Borden:—Well, we have the answer now, then, that the Argentine Republic will have the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—The same answer.

Mr. Borden:—Will Bolivia have the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Will Colombia have the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Denmark the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Japan the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Norway the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Russia the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Spain the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Sweden the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Switzerland the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Venezuela the same right?

Mr. Fielding:—Yes.

Mr. Borden:—Well, if the hon. gentleman had said this before, it would have saved the House a good deal of time."

### Canada's Rights.

Then Mr. Borden went on to refer to a previous question in which he had asked Mr. Fielding "if we would have the right to send our goods into those countries on the same terms on which we send them into the United States."

Mr. Fielding again attempts to wriggle:—"Surely the hon. gentleman is not serious. He knows the meaning of the favored-nation treaty. It means that you get in those countries the best terms that are granted by those countries to any people on earth."

Mr. Borden:—"Surely this is a very plain question: Will we have the same right to enter the markets of those countries, both in respect to free and dutiable goods, that we have to enter the markets of the United States under this reciprocity proposal?"

Mr. Fielding:—"Every one of these countries makes its own tariff laws, as we make ours. Every country may send its products into the Dominion of Canada subject to our tariff laws, but our products must enter every country subject to the tariff laws of that country; and every country having a favored-nation treaty guarantees to us that no other country will ever get any advantage over us in its markets. That is favored-nation treatment."

### Easy To Answer.

Mr. Borden:—I did not ask the hon. gentleman to make a disquisition on the favored-nation treaty, I was asking a very simple question. We did not ask him to go into the whole question of the tariff laws of these countries one by one, but with difficulty, and much reluctance on his part. Now, I ask him this: Whether the goods of Canada can enter the United States, some of them on the free list, and some upon the reduced list, will we have that same right in respect to the countries I have mentioned? That is a plain question, is it not? And it is a question which the government ought not to be afraid to answer.

More side-stepping from Mr. Fielding follows, which brings a retort from Mr. Borden that if "his (Fielding's) evasion is not keyed up to the pitch of understanding such a question, he had better give over the control of this treaty to someone else."

Mr. Fielding, who by this time was getting very angry—"Oh no he is not. Mr. Borden:—I make that suggestion."

Mr. Fielding:—"My hon. friend has not been invited to do that. If he will repeat the question I will try to answer it."

### Once More.

Mr. Borden:—I will repeat it once more, and try to make it so plain that even the Minister of Finance will understand it. I asked whether or not the terms which are extended to this country by the United States, under these tariff proposals, will be extended to the products of this country entering the countries that I named only a moment ago. If that is plain, I cannot make it plain.

Mr. Fielding:—"The hon. gentleman's question is, whether the terms we obtain in the United States will be obtained in these various favored nation countries?"

Mr. Borden:—"Yes. Mr. Fielding:—I answer—and if the hon. gentleman did not know it, it is a marvellous thing that one in his position did not know it, and I must be permitted to doubt whether he did not know it—that this arrangement does not in any way touch the rights which we have in any countries in the world. I repeat that every country makes its own tariff arrangements, that the United States has no power to determine on what terms and conditions products will enter Austria-Hungary. Every nation makes its own tariff."

"Except Canada," interposed Mr. MacLean, and the Conservatives roared with laughter.

### The Facts.

The facts of the case which Mr.

## SIFTING DOTS OF RECIPROCITY

Continued From Page One.

The head office of the trust would be in the United States, the only remedy would be to put that duty back where it is now and start all over again to build up the local industries. The whole tendency is to induce the farmer to sell his produce to the United States and to do away with by products. It is to break down the system of interrelated industries which makes the present prosperity of Ontario.

"Take Quebec. The home market of the province should be very large. It is not well farmed at present. The agricultural product of Quebec is to induce the farmer to keep his hay at home and follow an intensive system. The treaty puts a bonus on poor farmers by tempting the farmers of Quebec to ship their raw products to New England and deplete the fertility of their soil."

### Effect in The West.

Then—the prairie provinces. Mr. Sifton boldly grappled with the alleged benefits which the treaty will confer on them. He held out a hint of an educational campaign.

"As to wheat. He cited Mr. Hill's argument that the price would not increase. Even if the duty did not make a difference in the price of Canadian wheat would be the United States price down to export level."

"I deliberately give it as my opinion, representing a constituency of farmers, that the Manitoba farmer will get less for his wheat in the long run."

That is not all. In a condensed and masterly argument he devoted attention to the effect of the agreement on the sustained effort of Canada to keep Manitoba grain pure, to prevent mixing, and to the effect of the agreement on the control of terminal elevators, the keeping of Canadian wheat under control right into Liverpool, would improve the price by three or four cents a bushel.

The increased volume of traffic would enable the Canadian railways to lower freight rates, so as to make the total advantage six or seven cents a bushel. But under reciprocity Canada must change her inspection act, she must adopt American grades, she must accept the American market over to Minneapolis.

—As to cattle. For the present the western farmer would benefit. The market for second grade cattle just now is poor because it is a new country. But that is no reason for throwing that market away. It was a reason for starting a great chilled meat industry. With a moderate burst of feeling he denounced the making of the western country, "A backyard of Chicago."

### General Effect.

From details he passed to the general effect. The treaty puts the farmers on a free trade basis for what they sell and a protective basis for what they buy. They will not stand that. What then? Off with the duties on the manufacturer. What is that? Commercial union. Again Mr. Sifton dwelt on the more national duties that would be in under reduced duties. "If ever a government got in wrong on a subject, my hon. friends have got in wrong on this subject."

He passed with the people to the grating effect of the bargain. The binding of the provinces to adjacent states, what about the transcontinental railways? What about Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in 1903 for independence of the United States? What about the Canadian State? He gave figures to show that the creation of by-products would enable the American millers to destroy their Canadian rivals.

### Agrees With Mr. Foster.

He fully agreed with Mr. Foster that every day on which Canada depended herself to United States markets, she strengthened the grasp of the United States on her policy. Unless there is a rupture there will be a rupture of the tariff without pressure from the United States interests and United States lobby. More, this domination has begun. For years the United States had nothing to say as Canada won her commercial independence, they shook a club. The Canadian government yielded.

Mr. Sifton agreed that the concessions of a year ago were slight—but it was a mistake to yield at all. The rest of the day was taken up by Sydney Fisher, a striking contrast to Mr. Sifton. Comment on his speech must be deferred.

German moved the adjournment of the debate which will be resumed on Thursday. He also is a Liberal and will announce his refusal to follow Laurier.

### Vote Not Improbable.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The action of the Senate in fixing the time for a vote on the Lorimer question makes it possible that the Canadian reciprocity agreement will come to a vote. Some of the members have expressed a wish that it might be passed upon at this session.

"Stranger things have happened than a vote on that measure before adjournment," declared one influential senator tonight. This senator was a leading figure in bringing about today's agreement on the Lorimer and tariff board matters, and he is perhaps more conversant with the temper of the various senators than any other man in the Upper branch of Congress. Importance was added to his remark by the fact that he is strongly opposed to the reciprocity agreement.

Fielding sought to obscure are these: 1. THE UNITED STATES. 2. THE BRITISH EMPIRE. 3. TWELVE FOREIGN COUNTRIES: ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, RUSSIA, SWITZERLAND, SPAIN, JAPAN AND SOME SMALL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

Canada gets a new free list and some reductions in duties from:— 1. THE UNITED STATES. 2. NOBODY ELSE.

Should this agreement go through twelve foreign countries and the whole British Empire, as well as the United States, are to have the free run of the Canadian farmer's home market; but the Canadian farmer does not get one inch further into the markets of the British Empire, or into the markets of the twelve foreign nations, a truly wonderful example of Reciprocity!

## FINANCIAL AGENTS ATTRACTED BY CITY'S SOUND POSITION

Offer of Toronto Firm to Place Half Million Dollars' Worth of City Bonds Striking Refutation of Argument for Change in Government--142 Loads of Stone Traced--Other Matters.

While a number of residents of the city, and a section of the city press are crying for a change in the system of civic government, people outside the city of St. John who are generally believed to have fair deposits of ideas upon the prosperity of any community, do not think St. John is going to the dogs, and are prepared to back the city's financial system with capital for investment.

Evidence of this was afforded in a letter from Geo. A. Stinson and Co., of Toronto, which was read at the board of works meeting last evening by Ald. McGoldrick, the chairman. The Toronto firm stated that they understood that the city had in contemplation the issue of a new city bond at a cost of \$240,000 and also the issue of redemption bonds to the extent of \$260,000 and suggested that if the issues were lumped in a joint issue of \$500,000, they would make an offer for the lot with the idea of disposing of them in England.

They suggested that if the city felt like taking advantage of the offer, the debentures should be made payable at a bank in London to be named by the purchasers and that the interest should be made payable on March 1st or April 1st, to conform with the English law. They stated that they could dispose of the bonds at a good figure and were prepared to make a very flattering offer for them.

Ald. McGoldrick remarked that the letter was a compliment to the present form of administration. It was referred to the treasury board.

There was considerable discussion over the disappearance of the 280 loads of stone, and the aldermen expressed the opinion that a section of the city were trying to make capital out of it against the present administration.

Ald. McGoldrick presided and the aldermen present were: Ald. McKinnon, Willet, Sprout, White, Vanwart, Smith and Christie, with the director, street superintendent, harbor master, and Collector Alward.

Alleged Missing Stone.

In opening the meeting Ald. McGoldrick referred to the loss of what the newspapers had said was 225 loads of stone. Some of the newspapers had criticized the opinion that the city had been making talk over the alleged loss of the stone. He thought the city engineer's report would throw much light on the matter.

Engineer Murdoch reported the appropriations for street work were about the same as last year as follows:

Street repairs, east.	\$9,000
Street repairs, north.	7,500
Street repairs, west.	3,500
Street cleaning.	15,000
Street plant, repairs and renew.	20,000
Street plant, machinery.	2,000
Street paving, repairs and renew.	3,000
Public Grounds.	3,500
Salaries.	3,500
Brillages and fences.	500
Interest, sinking fund and interest.	3,000
Wood block pavement, repairs, etc.	3,000
Retaining walls.	3,000
Paving and repaving of streets.	7,000
Sidewalks.	3,000
Plank sidewalks, renewals and repairs.	1,000
Stone crusher.	3,000
Total.	\$75,000

The report was adopted. The Harbor Society requested permission to plant trees in Market Square on an area 100x60 feet. The engineer's estimate of enclosing this space with a concrete wall was \$300 and this was agreed.

Ald. Willet moved that the board take no action, and this motion carried.

J. Seely & Sons offered to renew their lease of the wharf on the west side of Sydney slip at \$250 per year. The engineer recommended that the warehouse be offered at \$300 and this was agreed.

The engineer recommended that \$2,000 be expended in repairs to the Quinn wharf and estimated the average income from the same at \$500 per year.

### Building Warehouse.

In connection with the request of the Crosby Molasses Co. for a lease of the wharf on the west side of Sydney slip, the engineer recommended that the city should build a warehouse on the lot at a cost of \$7,500. The revenue would be about \$300 per year.

The recommendation was referred to a committee consisting of Ald. Jones, Elkin, McGoldrick, Likely and Vanwart.

In reference to the disappearance of the stone from the Hollis quarries the engineer reported that he had traced 142 loads. Of this amount 127 had been used by the street department, 12 by the sewerage department and 3 by the water department. The stone used by the street department was in the interests of the Union and other streets, while that taken by the sewerage department was for a fill on Christmas day. He had told the man not to take stone from the quarry but as it had been taken in the past he supposed there was a misunderstanding of the order.

He was sure that the stone had been properly used in the interests of the city and he did not think there was as much as the newspapers stated.

Street Supt. Winchester said he did not think there was as much stone crushed as had been stated. He believed it had been properly used by the city.

Too Late in Accounting.

Ald. White thought it was too late the stone had not been accounted for before. Mr. Donovan in charge of the chain gang said he was prepared to give dates and names of drivers who got the stone. It was a small matter from a standpoint of money.

Ald. Likely thought the newspapers had very little to do to make so much capital out of such a small matter.

Ald. Sprout said it had been reported that 280 loads had been taken and only 142 accounted for. Where did the rest go?

Ald. Jones said Councillor Donovan was going to investigate the mat-

ter, and the board could very well wait until that investigation before discussing it.

Ald. White asked if any of the stone had been placed under the permanent pavement. It had been so reported in the newspapers.

Engineer Murdoch said limestone was used as a base for the permanent pavement, while the stone crushed at the Hollis quarry and reported missing was not limestone. It was a question where the Municipal Council was romping. No city teams had hauled stone for the permanent pavement.

Ald. McGoldrick said none of the stone had been used as base for the permanent pavement. Mr. Clarke had told him that the stone he used had come from Pokok. All the public wanted to know was that the stone had been properly used. If Mr. Donovan could produce the evidence that so much stone had been taken then the city had a right to know where it went. He did not believe there was any such quantity of stone crushed as reported.

Ald. Sprout:—"It has gone broadcast in all the papers that this stone had disappeared, and I want to know where it is."

Ald. McGoldrick:—"Not all the papers, only the commission papers."

Ald. Smith, who had entered during the remarks of Ald. Sprout, said he had been told that 280 loads of stone had been delivered to city teams. He had been told this by Mr. Beckett and Mr. Donovan. He believed the stone had all been used in the best interests of the city, but he thought the system was wrong.

The engineer's report was carried. Ald. Smith, Elkin and Sprout opposing it.

The engineer reported that he had given permission to J. H. Scammell & Co. to make temporary connection with the city's lighting system to light No. 7. This was merely a favor to J. H. Scammell & Co. and involved no expenditure on the city. The engineer's action was endorsed.

McLeod Building.

The engineer recommended that the McLeod building be retained and reconstructed. His estimate of expense was \$4,000 if the building was left three stories high, \$3,500 if cut down to two stories, or \$3,000 if cut to one story.

On motion of Ald. Likely the matter was referred to a committee consisting of Ald. McGoldrick, Vanwart, Elkin, Sprout and the engineer.

The engineer recommended that a carload of crude oil should be purchased from the Maritime Oilfields at 7 cents per gallon, or \$280 per tank car. The oil is used for street sprinkling and has proved very satisfactory.

On motion of Ald. Vanwart the engineer was authorized to make the purchase, and the engineer decided to permit him to purchase a proper oil sprinker.

James E. Kane asked that his lease of wharf lots in Guelph should be reduced from \$50 to \$20 per year. Wharves on the lots when Mr. Kane leased them had since disappeared and the wharves on the property considerably decreased thereby. This was the reason he asked for a reduction in his lease. He also asked for a rebate on arrears of \$125 at the rate of \$30 per year offering to pay \$50 instead of \$125.

Ald. Elkin moved that the matter be referred to a committee consisting of Ald. McGoldrick, Ald. Smith and the city engineer. The motion carried.

The Robert Reford Company asked for extension of time in which to remove a scow load of coal which had upset opposite the McLeod wharf until they could procure dredges to move the coal. They were willing to take the risk of the vessel's going on the coal in the meantime.

The engineer reported that the pile of coal raised a "conical obstruction" about six feet high. This would lessen the depth of water at that point. It was decided that the engineer and harbor master with the recorder should go to the Reford Company and get the coal removed as speedily as possible.

### Road Improvement.

The board decided to recommend that \$500 be expended in improving Sandy Point road.

Ald. White asked that improvements should be made to Millville road. The engineer suggested that the Dominion government with a view to obtaining a transfer of the new pier frontage built by the government, the length of which is 175 feet, this would give a berth 775 feet in length. The suggestion was adopted.

Charles R. Wasson was given permission to erect an electric sign over his store 600 King street.

T. McAvity and Sons, Ltd., were given permission to lay a spur track from the branch of the I. C. R. S. crossing near the head of the Eastern S. S. Co. to their building at the southern corner of Britain street and Reed's Point wharf.

Miss Hanson, of the Women's Exchange, was granted authority to erect an electric sign in Union street.

Ald. Willet reported from the committee that had an interview with Messrs. Brady and Caron of the I. C. R. in reference to a fence beside the I. C. R. tracks and near the bridges. He thought the whole matter would be satisfactorily arranged.

A letter was read from Dr. Pugsley in connection with the new pier frontage built by the government, the length of which is 175 feet, this would give a berth 775 feet in length. The suggestion was adopted.

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## More Government Aid for Farmers

Continued From Page One.

revenue for the upkeep of the roads and bridges, the educational system and other services; and the farmers had not banded together as they should have done to make their wants felt. But agriculture was now receiving greater aid than in the past, as the increase of the grant for agricultural societies from \$8,000 to \$13,000 was made last year, and the amount would be still greater in 1911.

### No Place for Potatoes.

Continuing, Hon. Dr. Landry stated that he did not believe that the convention was the proper place to introduce politics and he did not think it would be productive of good to embark too strongly on the various political questions. The future for agriculture in this province was bright, and the present provincial government was prepared to give all the assistance to the farmers in its power. The government had already increased the grant to agriculture and the number of agricultural societies had been almost doubled and would be twice as large within a year as when this government came into power.

The increasing interest in the work of the agricultural societies was one of the best things that could be done in assisting agriculture and it would be only a couple of years before the government would have a superfluous of agricultural societies to go about the province from one society to another, keeping them in touch with one another and finding out what the different ones were doing so that they can work together in the importation and improvement of the stock and for their general welfare.

Stock Importation.

During the administration of the department of agriculture the importations of cattle, sheep and horses had been made and it was proposed to continue the policy.

During the past year the importations had been made at a clear loss to the department of \$3,000