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### **RECIPROCITY AGITATION.**

The September issue of the Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers of the United States contains a very instructive criticism of the proposals for reciprocity with Canada as suggested by the Committee of One Hundred of the Boston Chamber of Commerce. The article is by the editor, and read in connection with a paper by Edward Stanwood in the same publication for June it is apparent that reciprocity with Canada will have strong opponents in the United States, even in New England, in which quarter of the Republic the agitation for reciprocity is most active. The arguments are founded largely on the opinions of United States public men and manufacturers adverse to the old reciprocity of 1854, which was considered a one-sided bargain that worked in favor of Canada. "It worked

injuriously against the producers of this country (the United States), laboring under the disadvantages of higher cost of production and higher taxation while it interfered also with the collection of needed revenue by a Government sorely pressed for funds. In a word, so meagre were its benefits and so many and great its disadvantages that only eight votes were recorded in the Senate against absolute abrogation, while every Senator from New England save two was against its continuance." The proposal of the Committee of One Hundred is that, unlike the old treaty, a new one should not be confined to non-competitive products. But the writer argues that if manufactured products were included it would open a side door to British goods that would be brought in under the preferential tariff and re-exported to the States, even as now the "Canadian manufacturers complain that the differential allowed the Mother Country is used by the Germans as a means to reach the Dominion markets." Then again, "To make the inclusion of manufacturers at all acceptable to the Canadian manufacturers they would, without doubt, demand that the treaty cover a long period of years. Otherwise, if they were constantly subjected to the danger of a short notice of abrogation, capital would be grudgingly invested—if at all—in Canadian manufacturing plants, because their success, dependent on the continuance of the arrangement, might be ruthlessly cut short by Congressional annulment. From a Canadian view-point, a long term must be the basis of such a bargain, and the granting it would be a menace to the manufacturers of the United States, as well as undesirable to this Government." The writer then proceeds to show from the speeches of Canadian public men that Canada would not negotiate a treaty which would involve discrimination against Great Britain. "The suggestion that Canada can be made, by reciprocal trade arrangements a great and exclusive market for the products of the American factory is a delusion. It . . . cannot be attained as long as this country holds a uniform and comprehensive system of protection and the Dominion clings to the Empire." Finally, it is pointed out that without reciprocity United States