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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, AUG. 19, 1911.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

"TRY IT. IF AFTER A REASONABLE TIME YOU "ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH IT, YOU CAN REPEAL "IT."

In a recent issue we pointed out some of the difficulties which would be encountered in repealing the Reciprocity Agreement after it had been in operation for a reasonable time. Under it, by diversion from the old markets and by the increased volume of new trade following upon increased Canadian production, the total interchanges between Canada and the United States would amount to some $600,000,000 or three quarters of our total foreign trade. In that time the mechanism of transport and of commercial transaction would have shifted from East and West and accommodated itself to North and South conditions, and business men and producers would have adapted their productions and methods to the demands and fashions of the United States market. We pointed out that to repeal the pact would be to suddenly interpose high and even prohibitive duties in the place of free entry, to violently dislocate an immense traffic, to throw into confusion the mechanism by which it had been conducted, and that to do all this would cause widespread commercial and financial ruin.

That would be the situation to be faced after "the reasonable time" for which we are asked to "try it" had elapsed. We would then have to choose either a commercial revolution involving widespread disaster or a continuance of the agreement. **TODAY WE ARE FREE, PROSPEROUS AND UNMENACED;** then we should be chained to conditions, created by ourselves, which would make free choice impossible and to break from which would involve confusion and ruin.

But suppose ourselves to have arrived at the end of that reasonable trial time, say four years, how should we proceed to repeal, and who would take the initiative? Remember that the pact was made by the Government and supported by the party and is therefore a part of its policy, deliberately adopted and endorsed by the electorate. Remember that this policy was adopted for the express purpose of encouraging increased trade with the United States, opening their markets to us and our markets to them. If at the end of four years it appears that this trade has increased, then the purpose of the policy has been accomplished, and the Government's action vindicated.

It is clear then that the Government could not stultify itself by moving to repeal the pact, and that the only process by which that could be effected would be to raise the question, defeat the Government, and reverse its policy. The very Government which now smoothly counsels you to try the Agreement for a reasonable time and then repeal it, if you wish, would meet you on the very threshold by saying, "Our policy has been successful, trade has increased under the pact, and before you can repeal it you must pass over our dead body."

You may plead that, though it is true that trade has increased between Canada and the United States, still the general effect has been prejudicial to the best interests of Canada, that our interprovincial development and exchanges have been stunted, that our national lines of transport have been depleted, that our national ports have suffered, our Empire trade diminished, and our Empire interests weakened. The Government would answer that all this had been discussed before, and the people had decided for the pact, that it was not clear that the evils were such as stated, that anyway the United States were our best markets and we must suffer some disadvantages in order to possess them. They would point out the difficulties involved in repeal, the sudden stoppage of a vast trade, the immediate imposition of duties by the United States, the possible ill-will and consequent retaliation by them, the uprooting and dislocation of the mechanism of transport and business, and would ask if you proposed to insist on repeal in the face of all this.

And with what face could the Government approach the United States with a proposal for repeal? The United States would say, "We do not wish for repeal. You made this Agreement with us deliberately and we accepted it in good faith. It suits us admirably, it has worked in the very direction foreseen and desired by us. We were perfectly frank with you. President Taft told you over and over again that we wanted your raw products to finish in our country, your wheat to mill, your stock cattle to fatten, your timber and pulp for our factories, and your freights for our railway and seaports. We wanted your home market for our products and told you so frankly. We wanted to draw your commerce from Britain, and attract it to ourselves, and to checkmate the policy of Imperial trade, and we told you so over and over again. We are getting all these things by virtue of this Agreement and we will resent any change as a breach of faith on your part. You knew all the conditions of the game before you entered it, now play the game or take the consequences. You repeal the pact, if you wish, but it will be open to us to at once impose duties, and we will take care that they are not lower than the old duties. We have a retaliatory surtax clause in our tariff which we used once before on you with marked effect, and we can use it again if necessary. If we do it will meet three or four hundred millions of your exports at our border and threw them back upon you without recourse. You entered into the compact with the avowed object of increasing your trade with us. Now that it has done that very thing, do you wish to repeal it simply because of its success?"

What answer could the Laurier Government make? We know well what the Fieldings and Patersons and Fishers would do in that case. As they had pushed Canada into the entangling net, they would allow her to be eaten, all the time declaring that it was a glorious death. If, then, the United States pressed an extension of free trade to the industries of Canada, they would accept it by another pact, and their purpose and that of the United States would then be accomplished, **UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT IN 1891 AND CONTINENTALISM SO DEAR TO LAURIER THEN, AND SO OPENLY ADVOCATED BY TAFT NOW, WOULD BE EFFECTED AND THE DEFEAT OF 1891 AVENGED. WITH COMMERCIAL UNION A FACT, COMMERCIAL CONTROL BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE EQUALLY A FACT. COMMERCIAL CONTROL MEANS COERCION FIRST, DEPENDENCE NEXT, AND IN THE END, ABSORPTION.**

The time to repeal the pact is **JUST NOW,** before we are enchained and entangled in the commercial net of the United States. The time to show our loyalty to Canada and the Empire is **NOW** by refusing to incur grave national risks rather than later by fighting to get rid of them.

OUT OF HIS OWN MOUTH.

Out of his own mouth the present attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier regarding Reciprocity is condemned in the strongest possible terms. Speaking at the Imperial Conference in London in 1907 he made use of these words:

"If we were to follow the laws of nature and geography between Canada and the United States, the whole trade would flow from South to North and from North to South. We have done everything possible by building canals and subsidizing railways to bring the trade from West to East and East to West so as to bring trade into British channels. All this we have done, recognizing the principle of the great advantage of forcing trade within the British Empire. . . . There is no boundary line except a purely conventional one over the whole territory of North America. Their (the Americans) habits are the same as ours, and therefore we are induced to trade and cannot help it by the force of nature. But so far as legislation can influence trade we have done everything possible to push our trade towards the British people as against the American people. There was a time when we wanted Reciprocity with the United States, but our efforts and our offers were put aside. **WE HAVE SAID GOOD-BYE TO THAT TRADE AND WE NOW PUT ALL OUR HOPES UPON THE BRITISH TRADE."**

This was only four years ago. If we had said "good-bye" to Reciprocity then, why are we expected to hail it as a Heaven-sent gift now? If we were then doing everything in our power to build up inter-provincial trade by immense expenditures on railways and canals, why are we now asked to accept a policy that will ruin the trans-Atlantic trade of St. John and divert this trade into Southern channels? These are questions that Sir Wilfrid cannot answer; but the electors will not be slow in showing what they think about them when election day arrives.

A PERISHABLE RECORD.

The scientific historian of the next century compiling the annals of our own times will be confronted with an insurmountable obstacle. He will naturally wish to come in imaginative touch with our daily life, to see us as we are at work and play, to watch us on the streets, in the shops, the factories, the theatres, the churches, the courthouse, at the polls. We bequeath him but one intimate and comprehensive view of ourselves—to be found in the perishable files of our daily press. Seeking the bequest he may find it, but, if not as mere dust, then as utterly illegible print on crackling yellow paper.

The Bible which sold for $50,000 the other day may still be read; it is quite unlikely that one or our own date of half its age will survive for the future collector. This is because in the manufacture of paper the lowly rag has been superseded by wood pulp.

It would be idle to expect the newspapers of today, from sheer sympathy with the needs of succeeding generations, to run off a special edition printed on durable paper; but it was proposed in all seriousness some twenty years ago that this be done. A more feasible plan for the preservation of the only daily record of events would be the storage of files in some sun-tight vault, where they would remain intact.

There is much talk just now of the discovery of a new source of supply for print paper in the tropics. This is the bamboo, and it is claimed that its pulp will probably compensate in full for that of the vanishing spruce. But it is all one, so far as longevity of fibre is concerned. No wood pulp can take the place of flax. It is an ironical paradox on our luxurious times that we are needy because of a lack of rags.

AN INCONSISTENCY.

Today the world is fighting for health, the United States especially. It is following to its lair every disease, and slaying it as it finds it, remarks the Milwaukee News. It is engaged in a hunt for causes of diseases and for remedies. It is finding germs, and microbes, and bacilli everywhere and warning against them so vigorously that it is almost scaring people to death through its efforts to save their lives.

And yet in the United States there never was a time when death and suffering by the deliberate act of man was so common, nor so little done to stop it. Never has there been a time when it was so easy for mind-wrecked or criminally-minded men to get the weapons of death from dynamite to pocket guns.

Milwaukee had an example of this a short time ago when a weak-minded boy easily got hold of two guns and used them with deadly effect. New York has had several such examples recently, and within the past two days in Chicago a maniac was able to stand on a crowded street and fire into the midst of them, injuring eight and endangering hundreds. And this danger lives in every city every day.

In the United States power is given health officers to order and dictate, and even to confiscate property and liberty in the name of the danger of disease, as a measure of its prevention. And at the same time weapons of death are, without let or hindrance, put into the hands of all manner of criminals, cranks, weak-minded persons and actual maniacs. Is not this something in the campaign for humanity which should receive attention?

PLAIN TRUTHS FOR CANADIANS.

From the address of President Taft, speaking in New York on April 27:

I have said that this was a critical time in the solution of the question of Reciprocity. It is critical because **UNLESS IT IS NOW DECIDED FAVORABLY TO RECIPROCITY IT IS EXCEEDINGLY PROBABLE THAT NO SUCH OPPORTUNITY WILL EVER AGAIN COME TO THE UNITED STATES.** The forces which are at work in England and in Canada to separate her by a Chinese wall from the United States **AND TO MAKE HER A PART OF AN IMPERIAL COMMERCIAL BAND, REACHING FROM ENGLAND AROUND THE WORLD TO ENGLAND AGAIN, BY A SYSTEM OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS, WILL DERIVE AN IMPETUS FROM THE REJECTION OF THIS TREATY,** and if we would have Reciprocity, with all the advantages that I have described and that I earnestly and sincerely believe will follow its adoption, **WE MUST TAKE IT NOW OR GIVE IT UP FOREVER.**

From the Telegraph's report of the Liberal convention at Dalhousie: "A motion was then made that the nomination of Mr. Reid be unanimously adopted by the convention, which was duly carried." It will be recalled that it was at this critical stage in the proceedings that the free fight, of which some of the ghastly details appeared in The Standard yesterday, began in real earnest and continued until "Mr. Murray and his friends left the convention amid the derisive cheers of the Reid men." "Which was duly carried," is but beggarly treatment for such a stirring scene. As a descriptive writer the Telegraph's correspondent leaves much to be desired.

LAURIER GUESSES; TAFT DEMONSTRATES

A comparison of the motives which governed Sir Wilfrid Laurier and President Taft in making the agreement reveals the extraordinary fact that they were both governed by the same identical motives, i.e., each expected to capture the market of the other.

Sir Wilfrid says:—

"The agreement was simply to get the better prices for the products of the Canadian farmer. . . . Canada consumes only 50 per cent. of her wheat. Where is the balance to go? But there are other products than wheat (hay, poultry, and eggs). Then there is the cattle trade. If we are not able to sell all the cattle we raise to Great Britain, there is a ready market in the United States."

HOW "WE WILL BENEFIT."

President Taft says:—

"My purpose in making a reciprocal trade agreement with Canada has been not only to obtain one mutually advantageous, but one which would be national in its scope, as applied to our country, and would be of benefit to all sections. . . . The trade agreement with Canada has been not only to obtain one mutually advantageous, but one which would be national in its scope, **AS APPLIED TO OUR COUNTRY,** and would be of benefit to all sections. . . . The trade agreement will extend the market for numerous products of the United States amongst the inhabitants of a prosperous neighboring country, with an increasing population and an increasing purchasing power. . . . We shall find a rapidly increasing market for our numerous products among the people of our neighbor. . . . If we take down that wall we will benefit by it for we shall sell more agricultural products to Canada than she will sell to us. We do now, and we shall sell her more after the treaty goes into effect."

These two forecasts of the results of the pact are diametrically opposite. Which is right? Would we gain a new market or would we lose our own? Would we become richer, or would we become poorer? Sir Wilfrid says that the benefit will be to us. Mr. Taft **DEMONSTRATES** that the benefit will be to the United States. Sir Wilfrid is content to deal in generalities and offers no evidence to prove his case.

MR. TAFT PRESENTS FIGURES.

Mr. Taft, being a shrewd business man, employs a corps of experts to examine and report to him upon the conditions. This report he sent to congress on 20th February last. It gives tables and statistics relating to the various articles covered by the agreement and shows that in almost everything the farmer produces the price is higher in Canada than in the United States. The table relating to animals gives these figures:

Year 1909	Horses	Dairy Cows	Other Cattle
		Average value per head.	
United States..	$108.19	$35.79	$19.41
Canada...	133.00	43.00	31.00
		Sheep	Hogs
United States...		$4.08	$ 9.14
Canada...		6.00	11.00

CANADIAN FARMERS BEST OFF.

The pamphlet has also a comparison of prices between various local markets along the border, such as Detroit and Windsor, Buffalo and Toronto, Ogdensburg and Prescott, etc., eight comparisons in all, having been made. The report of these experts shows that the price of dairy cows, stockers and feeders, sheep, lambs, and hogs, of potatoes beets, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, eggs and milk were higher on the Canadian side than on the American. In forwarding the report to the president, the American tariff board makes the following remark:

"The accompanying tables give a comparative view of the prices of agricultural products in our border states and in certain Canadian provinces. The prices were ascertained at first hand by representatives of the board during the months of January and February 1911. In making the comparisons, care has been taken that the prices quoted should be strictly comparable, and in the case of most commodities this has been possible."

CONCLUSIVE PROOF.

This evidence is unimpeachable and conclusively proves: First, that President Taft was right in his contention that Canada would provide a new market for the American producer; and, second, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not know what he was talking about when he said that he was opening a market of 90,000,000 to our farmers. Instead of getting higher prices they would get lower prices and, deprived of the protection they now enjoy, would have to compete in their own markets with the American surplus that would be dumped into Canada.

How truly did Sir Wilfrid sum up his own incapacity when he said: "If I had dabbled in finance and business, I am prepared to admit that I would have made a sad mess of it." A sad mess it will indeed be unless the electors arise in their might and say they will have none of it.

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Leading Fish Dealer Here.

A. H. Brittain, business manager of the Maritime Fish Corporation, and one of the principal promoters of the Fishermen's Regatta at Digby, was at the Royal yesterday. To a reporter, Mr. Brittain, who has been visiting a number of fishing stations in Nova Scotia, said the fishermen were making good catches, and were able to command good prices for their fish. Mr. Brittain was delighted with the Fishermen's Regatta, especially the race between the larger fishing vessels which was won by a schooner of the Maritime Fish Corporation. He thought such affairs would have a good effect in the way of promoting better relations between the fish merchants and the fishermen.

The United States would not share its Nineteenth Century with us; why should we share our Twentieth Century with the United States?

KINGS COUNTY PROBATE COURT.

Hampton, N. B., Aug. 18.—The Probate Court opened a session here with Judge James M. McIntyre. Letters testamentary in the estate of John E. Ryan, late of Norton, Kings Co., farmer, deceased, were granted to Michael J. Nugent, a grocer of St. John, a son-in-law of the late Mr. Ryan and executor named under the will. The estate is valued at $13,500, $3,500 real and the remainder personal. W. J. Mahoney of St. John is the proctor.

The Daily Hint from Paris.

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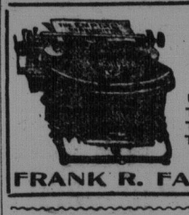

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Death of A Child.

Friends of Ernest O. Chapman will regret to hear of the death of his little daughter, Eva May, which took place yesterday morning. Mr. Chapman lost his wife five months ago.

An Assignment.

Walter H. Irving, jeweller, of King street, has made an assignment to John A. Sinclair, on behalf of his creditors. A meeting of the creditors has been called for August 28 in the office of MacRae, Sinclair & MacRae.

Reciprocity by agreement becomes an obligation which Canada cannot repudiate without risk. To remain free is easier than to regain freedom.

Steel Shipbuilding.

His Worship the Mayor has appointed a special committee to act with himself in conferring with the Provincial Government on the subject of financial assistance toward the establishment of a steel shipbuilding plant at St. John. The Mayor has named Ald. Smith, Hayes, Wigmore and Potts.

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