

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 27, 1910.

RECIPROCITY UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG.

A significant remark of a Chicago manufacturer on the subject of reciprocity is worth recording these days when so much is being heard on the reduction of the tariff between Canada and the United States. He is quoted as saying:—"Of course, I am in favor of reciprocity. Our firm makes goods for the farmer, and it sells them in every state of the union. We have, in consequence of our large output, reduced costs to a limit. Throw down your tariff bars, and we will enter Western Canada and burn up any Canadian competition that we meet." There is probably more truth than wisdom from the speaker's standpoint in this statement. There can be little doubt he voices the opinion of American manufacturers who have an interest in the Canadian market.

In this particular instance, it appears, a Canadian company is manufacturing a similar line of goods, is employing about 200 hands, and is selling its product as cheaply as the United States concern is doing it in its own territory. What would happen if the bars were pulled down and the Canadian company were "burned up"? With a monopoly in the field would the United States company continue to sell at free trade prices? Past history does not warrant any such presumption. The farmer would pay as much for the articles in question as he does now, or more, and he would have a lessened demand for his products, by reason of the throwing of 200 consumers out of employment.

The apt expression of this Chicago manufacturer that Canadian manufacturing industries would be "burned up" by American competition should be taken in conjunction with the resolution passed by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association a few days ago which called for action on the part of the Dominion government to bring about reciprocity under the British flag. While no specific declaration on the Canadian tariff question and reciprocity with the United States was made, the issue was covered by the resolution on Imperial preference. It expressed the opinion of the association "that the representatives of the Dominion of Canada at the forthcoming Colonial conference be requested to urge the desirability of taking immediate steps to bring about reciprocal trade within the Empire." It proceeded to state the conviction of the association that such reciprocity would strengthen the bonds of union and would largely free the British Empire from dependence on foreign countries for food and other supplies.

Mr. Rowley, the president of the association, in his address at the banquet, dealt mainly with protection and Imperial preference. "Much of the prosperity we enjoy today," he said, "is traceable to the protection of the old National Policy, whereby we have encouraged development of our national resources. But we must not stop there. We must now protect ourselves against the waste and extravagance in the utilizing of these resources, so that we may conserve to future generations of Canadians the wealth of land, of forest, of the seas, and of water-power, in which they hold equal right with ourselves."

"If practical protection is not maintained in Canada, we cannot compete in our home markets, much less in foreign markets against our commercial competitors, the mercantile marauders and the foreign foes, who, with the large markets of their own, are always ready to dump their surplus wares into Canada at any price they can get."

"It should not be forgotten that if industrial progress and development in Canada is hampered, we will surely rue it, for we will be given a setback from which it may take us many years to recover. We do not want Canada to be landed in this sort of plight, so let us stand pat; let us go our own pace in our own way. Let us promote our own trade among our own people, at home in Canada, and also throughout the Empire. Let us keep free of entanglements at Washington, let us cease to listen to overtures from the United States; let them deal with their tariff in their own way, and let us protect ourselves in our own way, on a broad, solid, sure, safe basis, practical protection."

As Mr. Rowley pointed out, the National Policy has been largely instrumental in making the Dominion what it is today. The existence of a moderate tariff has induced a constant stream of capital and industries to flow across the international boundary. But for the tariff all this United States capital and all these branches of United States factories would have remained at home to supply the Canadian market with American-made goods. Manufacturers in the United States, when they talk of reciprocity, want free access to the wealth of Canada's natural resources, the unrestricted privilege to exploit them in their own way, and also freer access to the Canadian market. The removal of the tariff bars would mean ruin to the industries of the country. Imperial preference, on the other hand, will tend to strengthen the ties which bind the nations of the Empire together, and promote the commercial prosperity of each unit. The call of the Manufacturers' Association to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to urge the importance of reciprocal trade within the Empire at the forthcoming colonial conference voices the opinion of an overwhelming majority of the Canadian people.

FORTIFYING THE PANAMA CANAL.

The right of the United States to fortify the Panama Canal is claimed by the United States government on the ground that it is conceded by the Hay-Pauncefote

treaty made by the United States with Great Britain in 1901. The right is not conceded in so many words; but, according to the view of the Administration, it is implied, since the Treaty, while modelling itself by name upon the Suez Canal Convention of 1888, omitted the clause which prohibits the fortification of the Suez Canal.

The United States, moreover, definitely asserted the right to erect fortifications in the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, made with the republic of Panama, against which Great Britain entered no protest. Mr. Roosevelt holds strongly the view, to which he has recently given vigorous expression, that the United States is "bound in honor" to fortify the canal as a means to "effectively guarantee its neutrality."

The London Times points out that the matter in any case does not rest exclusively with Great Britain and the United States. "Other powers," it says, "may urge that their strategic situation will also be considerably affected by the canal, and they may argue that the guaranteeing of its neutrality should not be the case of a single power. Mr. Roosevelt will, no doubt, recognize that his argument, while powerful for the purpose he had in view, is not without another edge. Fortifications which guarantee neutrality must obviously be capable of guaranteeing a good deal else besides, and it may be felt that not even the United States should claim so prominent a military position in regard to the canal. We do not know that these questions will be raised; but we are certain that, if they are raised, they can be promptly and amicably solved."

"The issue, which is simply one of international equity, and is obviously covered to a very considerable extent by parallels to be found in existing international agreements, is precisely of the kind with which arbitration is best fitted to deal."

WRITTEN TOO SOON.

"Mr. J. S. Willison, the accomplished editor of the Toronto News, Canadian representative of the London Times, fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, who is now about returning from a western tour," says the Vancouver News-Advertiser, "bears with him from place to place a rooted sorrow. He wrote too soon a political history of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is a good book from the standpoint of an admirer of the Liberal leader, but was printed too soon after Sir Wilfrid became premier to be such a complete history as Mr. Willison could write now. Mr. Willison has less admiration for the premier than he had when he wrote the biography, and believes that Sir Wilfrid is now less worthy of confidence. At least he has departed far from the principles for which Mr. Willison commended him in other days."

"If Mr. Willison were now asked to write the biography of Sir Wilfrid Laurier it is probable that he would decline the task lest there might be yet other developments which cannot be foreseen. But if he should undertake the work he would produce a more keen and discriminating biography. He would show the difference between Wilfrid Laurier in opposition and Sir Wilfrid after fourteen years in office. He would compare promise and performance. He would compare the ministry first organized by Sir Wilfrid and that which holds office now. He would read the autonomy argument of 1896 in the light of the legislation establishing the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. He would discuss the land grants in the west in the light of the Ottawa platform, and would show the likeness of the McGreevy scandals to those of the present day. "How Sir Hector Langevin left a ministry and how Mr. Brodeur stayed in," might be the title of a chapter."

"The book which Mr. Willison would write now would not only be still more interesting than the one he wrote some years ago, but it would be more true to life and history."

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Botha's decision to remain at the head of the government of the South African Union, despite his defeat in the elections to the parliament, is what might have been expected of that doughty leader of the Nationalist party. He was beaten in the constituency of Pretoria East, by Sir Percy Fitz Patrick, but can easily find another seat. Four members of his Cabinet were returned unopposed; and while the Nationalist majority in the Parliament will not be so great as was expected, it will be fully adequate to carrying on the government.

The recent electoral campaign followed pretty closely the old lines of political division in South Africa. The Nationalists still represent most strongly the Dutch element, though the Unionists have drawn away to themselves many Dutch votes, particularly among the commercial and industrial classes. The Boer farmer, however, has stood firmly by the Boer Premier.

Dr. Jameson is singled out as the predestined leader of the Opposition, having won for himself a high place in public confidence since his return to public life ten years ago. Next to Gen. Botha, he is said to be today the South African statesman "most widely trusted by South Africans of either race." This is a surprising achievement after the intense bitterness engendered by the Jameson Raid. But it is equally surprising to read the high praise which the London Times gives to General Botha, along with Dr. Jameson, concluding that "South African politics is safe in the hands of two such men." Surely time does bring its revenges.

A Gagetown correspondent writes to inform The Standard that a resident of Queens County, whom he names, and who is seventy-eight years of age, was blessed with a daughter on September 10. Unfortunately The Standard's correspondent omits his own name, which is necessary with all communications as a guarantee of good faith. Otherwise we feel sure we should be voicing the wishes of the community in extending to this venerable parent the more personal congratulations which he undoubtedly deserves.

CURRENT COMMENT

(London Times.)

Mr. Beckles Willison:—It may perhaps help those who are endeavoring (I fear somewhat unprofitably) to reconcile the various economic sentiments prevalent in Canada if I venture to explain that the intelligence of the West is hardly comparable to that of the East. The centre of Canada's culture, enlightenment, and statesmanship is not her geographical omphalos, but the Maritime Provinces. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have between them furnished four-fifths of the eminent scholars, doctors, lawyers, divines, and statesmen in the entire Dominion, and are, in my opinion, destined to occupy the place New England and New York occupy in the American Republic. Altogether too much is being made of opinion in Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, regions for whose political equivalent we (and likewise posterity) may turn to Kansas or Nebraska.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The \$45 Ross rifle was a success at Bisley, where the other competitors shot with \$17 rifles. The \$25 Ross rifle is reported to be a hot failure with the Queen's Own at Aldershot. So glad to think that our government has 50,000 of them!

ST. JOHN MEN CONTROL CAR WORKS

Messrs. W. B. Tennant of this city and J. R. Douglas of Amherst are reported to have acquired a controlling interest in the Silliker Car Works at Halifax. The Silliker Car Company's paid up capital consists of \$250,000 of common stock and \$125,000 of preferred shares, recently subscribed for and there is a loan from the city of Halifax of \$125,000. The company has in addition to the \$125,000 of preference stock, issued a further amount authorized of \$125,000. Commenting on the purchase the Halifax Echo says: "There is a movement in stock in the Silliker Car Co. that may mean much or little to Halifax, and rumors have it that the C.P.R. and the Canada Car Co. are interested. There seems to be no doubt about stock being acquired by parties in St. John and Amherst, though whether they are acting for the Canadian Pacific Co. or the Canada Car Co. or are merely investing on their own private account is unknown to the local parties interested in the concern. The fact that the Canada Car Co. recently acquired some land in Halifax might seem to find color to the report that that company is interested."

FULL PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

Newcastle, Sept. 26.—The 33rd annual meeting of the Northumberland Teachers' Institute convenes Oct. 6 and 7. The programme is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 6.

1st Session, 10 a.m.—Enrolment. Addresses by President B. P. Steeves and Inspector Mersereau.

11 a.m.—Paper on Language Work in Common School Grades, by Principal C. J. Mersereau, of Chatham.

2nd Session, 2 p.m.—Paper on Life and Work of Pestalozzi, by Miss Marlborough Fraser, of Chatham.

3 p.m.—Some Ways in Which Our Educational System Might be Improved, by Principal H. H. Stuart, of Gloucester.

Friday, Oct. 7.

3rd Session, 9 a.m.—Paper on Drawing, by H. H. Hagerman, of the Normal School.

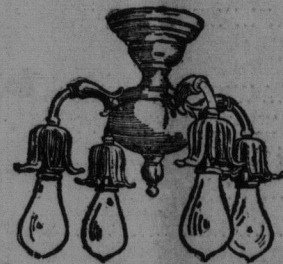
11 a.m.—A paper on Kindergarten Methods as Applied to Primary Work.

4th Session, 2 p.m.—Election of officers. 2.30 p.m.—A paper on School Management, by Miss Mabel M. McGregor, of Newcastle. Papers on Number Work.

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