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## THE HON GEORGE E. FOSTER **M**R. Andrew Carnegie and the ON CANADA AND THE Hon. George UNITED STATES. E. Foster were the principal

guests of the Canadian Club at its dinner in New York. Mr. Carnegie talked about peace, which is his favorite topic just now. Mr. Foster took the opportunity on behalf of the new Canadian Government and the electorate of the Dominion to repudiate any idea of unfriendliness to the United States being involved in the rejection of the Reciprocity Treaty. In the course of a manly and dignified speech he said:

"Canada has always wanted to trade with the United States, and under one treaty she did so, but America abrogated that treaty. It is just a question of how trade is to be carried out. We are your third best customers. We give you a bigger market than you give us. We meet you with an average tariff of 22, and you meet us with 44.

"We did not reject reciprocity because we did not want to trade with you. We have for the United States two distinct feelings, admiration for your great progress and anxiety to avoid your mistakes.

"There was no animosity in our rejection of the agreement. We did it because we did not like that kind of an agreement. We in Canada are British to the last crack of doom, and we couldn't remain so under a reciprocity pact. We could not break down our barriers of protection. We want the United States to remain our friend and some day we will reach a solution of all questions between us."

## RETIREMENT OF CITY **T**HE retirement of Mr. TREASURER ROBB. William Robb from the City Treasurer- ship of Montreal in-

volves a serious loss to the city. The position is one that demands exceptional qualifications of character, ability and experience, and Mr. Robb is the exceptional man who possesses them all. It is not too much to say that the credit of the city in the money market both of Canada and of Europe, has been improved by the fact that the city treasurer enjoyed the confidence of the financial institutions with which the city had to deal. It is perhaps even more remarkable that Mr. Robb has always enjoyed the confidence to a high degree, of the aldermen who have had to do with the city's finances and with

whom he must frequently have come in conflict. The rule has been to defer to his opinions, and whenever the rule has been departed from, it has been to the disadvantage of the city. The position is one which requires good judgment and infinite tact and the writer has often had occasion to say "Thank God for a man like Mr. Robb in a position in which so much can be done to guard the interests of the tax-payers." No man can occupy the position of City Treasurer without occasionally irritating aldermen and others, and it speak volumes for the reputation of Mr. Robb that he could do his duty so thoroughly and escape anything like serious criticism. Nobody will begrudge him the rest he has earned by forty-seven years of service to the city in positions of great responsibility, and the wish will be general that he may be long spared to enjoy the leisure, which by education and cultured taste he is so well-fitted to appreciate.

## THE CITY TREASURERSHIP.

**T**HE vacancy in the civic service created by the retirement of Mr. Robb will be a hard one to fill. The treasurership is one of the few important civic positions still held by English speaking men, and considering the proportion of the revenue contributed by the English-speaking taxpayers and that all of the city's loans are from English sources, the old tradition in connection with the office might well be adhered to. One of the suggestions is to abolish the office. This would, we think, be a mistake. Most or all of the big cities on this continent have a city treasurer and buyers of municipal securities have grown accustomed to look for the signature of the city treasurer. Frankly, it would seem desirable to ask Mr. Robb if he can, without injustice to himself, hold the office for another year and meanwhile consult him regarding selection of his successor.

## PUBLICITY BUREAU.

**T**HE Chambre de Commerce has recommended the establishment of a publicity bureau for Montreal. This city needs artificial "boosting" about as much as London or New York, that is to say, about as much as a dog needs two tails. It is all very well for a western boom town, to have a staff, an office and a subsidised magazine to announce to an admiring and wonder-