

in obtaining access on reasonable terms to the markets of the United States.

A BLATANT DEMAGOGUE

Later on, in 1891 and 1892, a delegation of the then Government proceeded to Washington. That delegation was composed of Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell and a certain Mr. George Eulas Foster, at that time Minister of Finance. Probably from the similarity of names, this George Eulas Foster was some connection, perhaps a remote ancestor, of the blatant demagogue of that name who is now accusing everybody who attempts to encourage an exchange of natural products as disloyal.

Sir, I desire to read to you from the official record of the transactions which took place at that time, what passed between this Mr. Foster and Mr. Blaine, the Secretary of State for the United States. Here is the record:

Mr. Foster opened the discussion by stating that the suggestion made by Canada in December, 1890, was for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, with such modifications and extensions as the changed conditions might make necessary.

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After considerable discussion on this point, Mr. Blaine stated that a proposal for a treaty, based on natural products alone, could not be discussed, as it would lack the essential elements of an arrangement for reciprocity, so far as the United States is concerned. If a proposition he made "for taking down the bars" it would be quite another question.

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Mr. Foster said that in view of Mr. Blaine's positive declaration of yesterday that it would not be possible to negotiate a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada upon the basis of natural products alone, he would not further press that question except to reiterate his opinion that a treaty framed upon such a basis would not be disadvantageous to the United States, but would be found to result quite as favorably to their interests as to those of Canada.

Now, sir, this is a case in which one cannot appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober, but one in which we can appeal from the demagogue of to-day to the responsible statesman of 20 years ago, and I leave you to draw your own conclusions of the sincerity of the man who to-day denounces as disloyal the very proposal which he humbly proffered Mr. Blaine 20 years ago.

Sir, in this connection you may observe two rather noteworthy facts, first of all that not one man who took part in these reciprocity negotiations from Lord Elgin down to Mr. Foster, ever dreamed that they were doing a disloyal act in proposing an exchange of natural products between Canada and the United States, and in the next place it is perfectly clear from their own statements and from Mr. Blaine's declaration that a reciprocity treaty could at that time have been obtained on the terms suggested by us.