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MR. BOURASSA AND RECIPROCITY.

Mr. Bourassa has issued a pamphlet on the Reciprocity Agreement viewed from the Nationalist standpoint. A short introduction is devoted to the defence of Mr. Bourassa's Nationalism, in which he repudiates certain extreme positions taken by too enthusiastic followers, and appeals to the cool judgment of all Canadians as to its real and distinctive doctrines. Coming to the agreement itself, Mr. Bourassa declares that it is "one of the gravest political problems that have ever crossed for a long time the minds of the Canadian people." In approaching it he thinks "exclusive care for Canadian interests should be the guiding thought," and that these "should not be sacrificed or subordinated to the away of American industry and avenues of trade to a false conception of Imperial unity." Such he declares "is the true Nationalist doctrine."

As regards agriculture the measure appears to Mr. Bourassa to be favorable, as regards manufactures, the duties might well be further reduced on United States agricultural implements and machinery in return for retaining Canadian duties on garden products. As to lumber, pulp and paper, he thinks the Government should foster paper making in Canada, but inclines to the belief that under Reciprocity United States capital would come North and develop the industry near the sources of supply.

The most serious objections to the agreement Mr. Bourassa thinks, are the alleged consequences: "American domination and the sacrifice of Imperial interests." As to the first "it is not," he says, "supported by any principle of economy and it is formally contradicted by the history of Canada." The treaty of 1854 was beneficial, and both parties have since favored the principle. Yet the Nationalists, he believes, "believe in the necessity of a protective tariff high enough to stimulate home industries," and that it is better even to go a little beyond the line of necessary protection rather than "to sacrifice our industries and our consuming market to the American trusts."

Free trade, he points out, might result at first in lower prices, "BUT ONCE THE COMPETITION OF CANADIAN PRODUCTION WAS CRUSHED OUT THE AMERICAN PRODUCER WOULD TAKE A DIRE REVENGE AND RECOVER WITH A LARGE INTEREST FROM THE CANADIAN CONSUMER WHAT HE MAY HAVE SACRIFICED AT FIRST WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BECOMING THE ABSOLUTE MASTER OF ALL THE MARKETS OF NORTHERN AMERICA." Reciprocity so far as it can be kept within proper limits is good. The two great dangers are, first the possible enlargement of our National economy under the predominance of American interests, effectuated by the extinction of Canadian industries by the American trusts, and the purchase of our natural resources by American capital for the benefit of American manufacturers, and, secondly, the sapping of our inter-provincial East and West trade by North and South diversions to the United States. Mr. Bourassa thinks it would have been wiser to let the United States movement towards lower tariff rates culminate before undertaking negotiations, and inclines to the opinion that in this regard the Canadian negotiators were over-reached.

Neither Sir Wilfrid nor Mr. Fielding inspire Mr. Bourassa with confidence from their past record,—the former on account of his frequent utterances in Boston and elsewhere as to commercial union and pro-Americanism, and the latter in respect of his attempt to take Nova Scotia out of the Federation and his adhesion to the unfortunate propaganda of 1887-1891, in which Mr. Blake foresaw annexation and left the party. If better terms could be got by delay, then the agreement should be delayed.

But it is when Mr. Bourassa begins to discuss the effects of the measure on Imperialism that we get the key to his whole position. He asserts the doctrine that in no way is Canada in her policy to be influenced as to what may be considered in the interest of Britain or the Empire, but is to be guided solely by what is best economically for herself. If, therefore, to all who think differently and are therefore listed by Mr. Bourassa as Imperialists, this agreement deals "THE MOST TREACHEROUS AND EFFECTIVE BLOW WHICH SIR WILFRID HAS EVER GIVEN TO THE CAUSE OF IMPERIALISM let us welcome Reciprocity and pass it as soon as possible." In our contest against Imperialism," he says, "Reciprocity with the United States gives us a strategic point of unmeasurable value," and that is why "we Nationalists who oppose that policy should be disposed to view with favor the obstacle in its way."

In summing up Mr. Bourassa concludes that the proposal does not endanger the economy and National unity of Canada, nor its industries, nor Imperial interests, but that it does "throw an insuperable obstacle in the way of an Imperial Customs Union," and that "this is, in our eyes, the main reason for its adoption."

From first to last the author of the pamphlet seems obsessed with the bogey of Imperialism, which he has dressed either to suit his avowed fears or to appeal to the prejudices of his race. He is oblivious of all duties and obligations, of all benefits and advantages which are involved in the evolution of our Nationality from the Motherland, and the developments and possibilities of the future in connection with the Empire. He would wipe out all considerations of past planting, and present security and future safety, and substitute the hard, bitter and, we believe, destructive maxims of absolute economic selfishness.

His doctrines are unnatural and short in vision, there is not one generous sentiment in them, breadth

and warmth are equally wanting, and his final conclusion, after all his balancing of advantages and disadvantages, his appeals and cautions, that the compelling attraction in his eyes is that the measure will "dish Imperialism" should be sufficient to put all loyal Canadians on guard.

Mr. Bourassa has gifts and possibilities. He has so far proved himself clean and straight-going, he has struck sturdy blows against graft and crookedness, and more than any man has in the province of Quebec stripped the mask from that prince of opportunism and humbug Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If now he would rise above labor prejudices, cease to be a little Canadian and join with those who, whilst abating not one jot of title of Canadian rights and privileges, still recognize a broad community of interest and development between all parts of the Empire, his field of usefulness would be greatly widened, and his life work vastly enhanced.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The mainly forceful speech of Premier Hazen on the address furnishes a strong contrast with that of the Leader of the Opposition and the whine of Mr. Copp who followed. It is the general impression that Mr. Robinson will soon retire from the leadership and that the mantle will fall on Mr. Copp who has had aspirations in that direction for some time past. In this matter of aspirations Mr. Copp is advancing. Time was, not so long ago either, that he was content with a small retailer from the Attorney General of the day. Any little thing that came his way was acceptable for a while, but as he grew in girth his demands increased and one day he figured in the Central Railway accounts for a good round fee. Just before this Mr. Copp had been regarded as a "kicker" by some of his political friends. Up to date Mr. Copp has never been able to explain satisfactorily why the Central Railway fee was paid him or what he did to earn it, but it is on record that he has never "kicked" since but has tamely submitted at the snap of the party whip.

Mr. Hazen's statement concerning the Albert Southern Railway was clear and convincing. If the Government of New Brunswick had any lien on this railway it should have been put in effect long ago. The letter from Mr. W. A. Trueman, whom he informed the House supported Mr. Robinson and not himself, shows that Messrs. Fowler and Jonah have paid over to him (Trueman) the sum of \$10,000 received from the sale of the rails and that \$5,000 of this amount was paid to Judge Wells under the provision of the trust deed made by the late Mr. Turner. Further Mr. Trueman states in his letter that when some matters still pending in connection with the sale of the rails are settled, the creditors will be notified.

There was no attempt at evasion or concealment on the part of Mr. Hazen. He dealt with the question in an honest open manner, suppressing nothing. How does Mr. Robinson's conduct compare with that of the Premier in this matter? For some reason Mr. Robinson has forgotten the dignity of his position and has permitted himself to descend to methods which belong to the Opposition. Mr. Robinson knows a quite well the reason why the province has no lien on the Albert Southern Railway. He knows that it did not and could not come under the provisions of the Act of 1885, because it was not mentioned in the general subsidy Act of 1882, which the Act of 1885 amended in some particulars, but did not change so far as the railroads that could be subsidized under its provisions were concerned.

Had Mr. Robinson been acting in the interests of the province he would have pointed out to Mr. Hazen and the Legislature that the latter was in error when he claimed that the province had no lien. That he failed to do so then and raised the question at a political meeting in Kings County, shows that he hoped to make political capital out of it and perhaps secure the settlement of claims of a doubtful character so far as the railway was concerned. After the plain statement of facts submitted by Mr. Hazen to the House and the people, the Opposition will have some difficulty in creating a scandal out of the sale of the rails of the Albert Southern.

In dealing with other questions which have been raised by the Opposition, Mr. Hazen was equally candid, giving the House the fullest explanation on every important act of the Government. Mr. Copp, who followed him, sought to soften the effect of the blow administered the Opposition in the tremendous increase in the stumpage collected by Mr. Grimmer as compared with the collections of Mr. Sweeney from this source. He has discovered that Mr. Grimmer collected more in one year, when the exports show a decline, than in another year when the exports had increased. No one has put the exports forward as an infallible guide to the lumber cut on Crown Lands, but only as an indication. The stumpage collections have been increasing ever since the present Government came into power and the large increase for 1910 is due in a measure to the better organization of the Crown Land Department. In other words had the organization of the Crown Lands Department been as good in 1909 as it was in 1910 more money would have been collected.

It has not been an easy task to change the methods of collecting stumpage which have grown up during the years of mismanagement and neglect of the old Government. There can be no doubt that the country lost a large sum annually through the unbusiness-like and corrupt methods of the Crown Land Department in years past, and the present Opposition cannot evade the responsibility, as their number includes the Surveyor General who was responsible for the administration of the department during the last years of the old Government.

Mr. Robinson was wise when he admitted that there was only a partial collection of the revenues in times past, and Mr. Copp would have appeared less foolish had he followed the example of his leader. The failure on the part of the old Government to administer the Crown Lands honestly is one of the worst scandals in the history of the province and has cost the people a vast sum of money.

The speech of Mr. Hazen was not only an able one, but was full of hope for the future. He was able this year to point to things already accomplished during the three years he has guided the affairs of the province. Many changes for the better have already taken place and the future has great things in store for New Brunswick, which will occupy a more prominent place among the provinces of Canada than ever before.

Mr. Copp says that the Leader of the Opposition is responsible for the gift by Mrs. Jordan of her magnificent property as a sanatorium for incipient cases of tuberculosis. Most people were of the opinion that it was Mrs. Jordan who was the benefactor and that it was her property that was handed over to the province. But then Mr. Copp comes from the county of natural gas. Evidently he no longer wishes to be taken seriously.

In the death of Mr. Thomas Robinson, M. P. P., of Harvey Station, the county of York loses an able representative. Mr. Robinson was a staunch Conservative and during the past three years in the Legislature showed himself to be a man of sound judgment and great capability. His record as a county councillor extended over a period of twelve years. His death will be sincerely mourned by a wide circle of friends.

AN AMERICAN LOYALIST OPPOSES RECIPROCITY

Writer from Houlton Says the "Farmers and Other Sensible People of the Country" Do Not Want It.

Houlton, Me., March 2nd, 1911.
To the Editor of The Standard:
Sir,—I see by reading your paper, (a copy of which came to me by accident) that you are opposed to reciprocity. Well, so am I. We don't want it any more than you do. When I say we, I mean the farmers and all other sensible people of the country. But at present as the main body of sensible people are the farmers, I won't say anything about how the other sensible class feel about this scheme of the politicians. But we farmers feel sore to think that we have been singled out as the Taft foot ball.

Taft, no doubt thinks that the farmers are easy, and the least likely to hit back or resent ill usage. His plea is for cheaper living, and he wants the Canadian farmer to furnish the raw material, (so called). I would ask your farmers how they would like to deliver potatoes in Boston at 42 cents per bushel as we are doing, and would they like to pay \$90.00 for a cream separator that they can now buy for \$50.00. I had to smile, in fact, I was a pretty broad grin, when I read of that petition in boots that went to Ottawa and demanded various things of your very Liberal government.

Poor deluded farmers! you are not looking an inch beyond your nose. Let me tell you something, and it is no joke on us either. An Aroostook farmer went to the annual fair at Presque Isle, being in need of a cream separator, he thought he would look over the different kinds of machines exhibited there. After a careful inspection he selected one that he thought would suit him and Yankee like commenced to dicker with the agent in charge of the exhibit. After some time spent in hard talking and some whittling, he got what he thought was the low bottom price of \$90 spot cash, which he paid down and took his machine home, believing that he had done a good day's work and had got a separator at rock bottom price. About a week after he was over in Carleton county and put up at a farm house for dinner. His host invited him to inspect a new cream separator that he had just set up. On looking at the machine over he found that it was exactly like the one he had bought in Presque Isle. Asking the farmer what he had to pay for his machine you can imagine how surprised he was when he was told that fifty dollars was the price! Only forty dollars in favor of the Canadian farmer.

American moving machines can be bought in Carleton county cheaper than they can be in Aroostook county. I have bought American sewing machines in Woodstock for less money than I could buy them for from the company that manufactures them, and for whom I was working at the time. Now how would it be under free trade before the big combines would control your factories and force prices up to what we have to pay? Now another object lesson in prices. A few days ago potatoes were selling in Carleton county at \$1.40 per bushel. On this side of the boundary the price was \$1.25 per bushel and on the other side of the boundary it was a mighty low market as what the Carleton county farmers are facing, because Aroostook potatoes are so low in price and in quality that they have glutted the Montreal market. Sixty five to eighty cents is what we get. If you had free trade with the farmer you would have to take the same price as we get. Of course when the price is high here we get your surplus and our government gets the duty on a legal importation.

But if you had no duty on the reciprocity agreement that I want to speak of, look at the sincerity of Mr. Taft in his great sympathy for the consumer, he puts wheat on the free list and 50 cents per bushel. Oh yes, he is a big hearted fellow, so thinks your millers need a rest, so please send your wheat across to our mills, but keep your flour to him, and that 50 cents duty will help you to do so.

My letter is getting long, but I want to ask this question, Do you think that we old hayssees over the line don't understand the motive behind this secretly made agreement? If you do, you are much mistaken. You are, as Mr. Taft says, of the same blood as we are. He should have said, "We are of the same blood as you are, but he put the cart before the horse. Some of us, and a mighty large per centage of us in Maine, are of your own blood, and we can recall to mind many expressions that we have heard in the last 30 odd years regarding the future of Canada, and we are of the opinion that the agreement has been voted in the congress of the United States.

Taft can try as hard as he pleases to hush his democratic friends, Champ Clarke, and try and smile away the impression that Clarke's blunder made, but the fact remains that that jet of flame expressed was but a flame that shot up for an instant from the hot fire of desire for annexation. Taft threw his big weight on that jet of flame and smiled his most engaging smile on Ambassador Bryce and said it was not so, didn't mean it, but the tinder had caught the spark and caused a light to shine on many blind eyes. But none so blind as those that won't see, and of such is the Liberal party of Canada.

Where are the offsprings of the United Empire Loyalists? Where are the Orangemen of Canada? Are they time loyal? Do they not love their inheritance? Can they not know the truth? I am afraid that many are lingering by the flesh pots of Egypt, or they have become entangled in the wilderness of politics, and do not want to wake up and make diligent enquiry to see if it is already too late to regain the lost ground.

Come among them, know the truth! I am afraid that many are lingering by the flesh pots of Egypt, or they have become entangled in the wilderness of politics, and do not want to wake up and make diligent enquiry to see if it is already too late to regain the lost ground. Remember your oath to be true to your country and the word of God. Commence today to practice the principle of free trade. Let your true motto be love, loyalty and truth, and with love to all and malice toward none, see to it that the rights that were won for you by blood and privation, suffering and death, be forever

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secured to you and your children. Remember that annexation is the object of the men behind this scheme of reciprocity. Don't sell your birth-right for a mess of Taft pottage. Develop your own resources, choose out your own pathway and steadfastly follow it. Manufacture your own raw materials. Face toward the east, as your own great railroads run, and not toward the south where the great black cloud hangs. Your gold and silver mines will make your country famous in a few years.
Don't give up the old ship, remember that under certain conditions one shall chase a thousand.
Yours truly,
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