

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

Annexation.

NOW that the elections are over and people are more prepared to look at the question of Canada's relations to the United States in a non-partisan way, it may not be amiss to discuss some of the points raised during the campaign. Our situation on this continent compels us to study these international relations very closely, and, in times of political peace, to arrive at convictions and conclusions of a reasonable and practicable character.

There is first the question of annexation. The Conservatives attacked reciprocity because they claimed it would lead to annexation. The Liberals answered that the idea was nonsensical. Perhaps it would be wisest to say that both were wrong, both were extreme. No enlargement of trade between the two countries would lead to annexation, if the Canadian people remained thorough loyal to British connections. In their contention to this effect, the Liberals were right. Nevertheless when these same Liberals denied that there was any annexation sentiment among the public men of the United States they were wrong. Indeed, there was as much truth on the one side as on the other. There are a number of men in the United States, men of light and leading, who desire to see one country from the North Pole to the Panama Canal and who would go a long way in attempting to gain that goal. And it is a reasonable imperial feeling, akin to that which exists among those Britishers who desire to see an Empire which would girdle the world and would dictate terms to all other nations. A nation of ninety millions of people without imperial ambitions would be an incongruity in the world as we know it. If that feeling should lead the United States into war against Canada or Mexico then it would be unreasonable. But so far, only peaceful means have been considered.

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Proof of This Contention.

PERHAPS some reader would like proof that there is an annexation sentiment in the minds of some United States publicists. If so, here it is. One of the leading papers in the United States is the *Journal of Commerce*, published in New York. It is a financial and commercial authority without a superior on this continent. Its subscription price is \$12 a year, showing that it is not distributed to those who are not able to pay for expert opinion. Its editorial statement as to the facts on this subject should be conclusive evidence.

In its issue of Monday, September 25th, the *Journal of Commerce* devotes its leading editorial to a discussion of "Canada and the United States," and aims to show why reciprocity was rejected by Canada. The *Journal of Commerce* was in favour of reciprocity, regrets the failure of the negotiations or measures and still believes that Canada's future market for farm produce will be the United States. Hence no better authority could be quoted on the subject which we are now discussing.

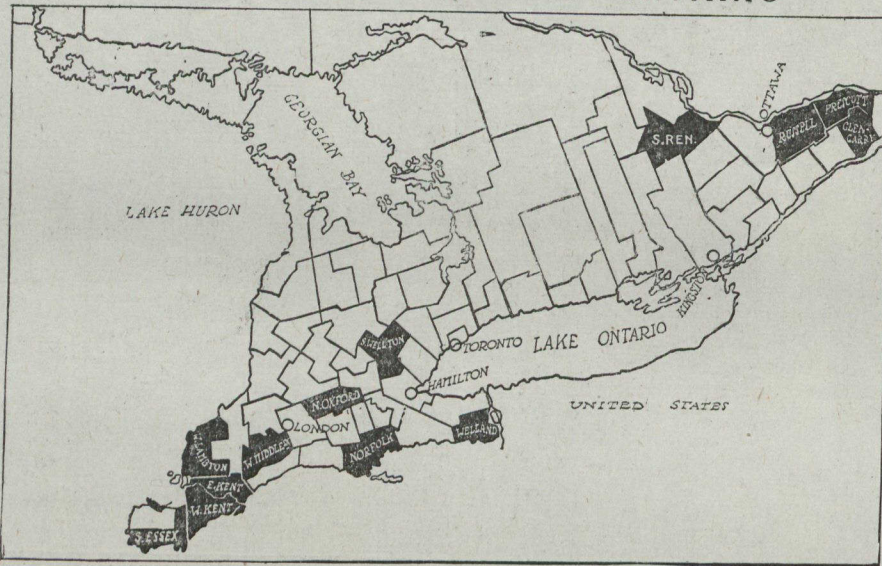
In this editorial, published on September 25th, the *Journal of Commerce* frankly admits that much of the difficulty over reciprocity was due to the "indiscreet utterances" of some publicists and newspapers. It says in part:

"Mr. Champ Clark furnished a very effective campaign document for the Canadian Conservatives when he presented the prospect of 'one flag, the Stars and Stripes, from Central America to the North Pole,' and when he intimated that the reciprocity agreement must lead to the annexation of Canada which he thought could be obtained with the good will of Great Britain. Senator Smith of Michigan cordially indorsed Mr. Clark's views as expressed on the floor of the House, and said that they carried as much weight as if the Prime Minister of England had spoken. He added that Mr. Clark's utterances were a blow to the English scheme of centralization, the feasibility of which is apparent to anyone who studies the wonderful resources of the British Empire. Then Senator Cummins of Iowa declared himself to be for the annexation of Canada, as he had always been, and it was his belief that if it

were generally understood that Canadian annexation was the purpose of the pending pact, it would doubtless help the measure to become law. Senator McCumber of North Dakota said that Canadian annexation is the logical conclusion of reciprocity with Canada, and Senator Jones of Washington, more modest than the rest, confined himself to an expression of his desire to see Vancouver and British Columbia an integral part of the American Union. Then there were newspapers which loudly proclaimed that the reciprocity agreement was the last chance to "head off" the federation of the British Empire, and who saw in the agreement a check upon the east and west development of Canada, making that country a business part of the United States with the line of traffic running more to the north and south. More specifically, these journalistic pundits found that reciprocity would really cut Canada into two countries—the section east of Lake Superior merging with New England and the Eastern States and the West becoming part of the United States."

Surely, no further proof is needed to show that there is a decided feeling towards annexation among public men in the United States and that the people in this country had some basis for their statements and arguments. Fortunately, the feeling is wholly

NEW POLITICAL MAP OF ONTARIO



Ontario went against reciprocity on Sept. 21st, as this map shows. Thirteen Constituencies (in black) Liberal; and of these one (Welland) is anti-reciprocity. There are 86 constituencies in all.

peaceable, and is not likely to cause Canada any serious trouble.

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Another Election Error.

THERE is another election issue in which the error, if it may be termed such, was made by the opponents of reciprocity. There was a constant cry that the farmers of the United States are not as prosperous as the farmers of Canada. This is quite wrong. The United States census figures show that the profits of the agriculturists of that country were never higher. Farm values in well settled parts of the country have doubled in the last ten years, and sometimes more than doubled. Even in New York State, there is a notable increase in the value of farm lands which can only be explained by increased profits.

When the Conservative orators claimed that the United States farmer was not in as good a position financially as the Ontario farmer, they were in error. The facts and figures were against them. There are abandoned farms in New York as there are in Ontario, but the cause is the same. Farming now-a-days requires capital, and the farmer without capital must move to a newer district where land is less expensive and where cultivation is less intensive. Further, farm labour is scarce in New York State as in Ontario, because of more steady employment to be found in the growing towns and cities.

The best brains of the United States is being directed towards manufactures, transportation and commerce, and as long as this is the case so long will the cities attract the best men from the farms. What has happened in the United States is hap-

pening in Ontario, and will later on prevail in the older portions of the Canadian West.

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The Situation at Ottawa.

EVERY Canadian interested in public affairs and public men has been greatly interested in the happenings at Ottawa during the past fortnight. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues are winding up the business of an administration which has been fifteen years in office. Mr. Borden and his colleagues-to-be are arranging the preliminaries of the new administration. It is an intensely human drama. It is fraught with men's highest ambitions and a nation's greatest interests. He who is not interested must be devoid of civic spirit and national intelligence.

The drama is rendered the more spectacular by the closing incidents of the seven-years reign of our Governor-General and the preparations for the advent of a new Governor-General, a prince of royal blood. Earl Grey is saying good-bye and receiving the last congratulations of a people whose respect and love he has fairly earned. Preparations are proceeding for welcoming the Duke of Connaught, uncle to King George V., who has already begun his journey from London to Ottawa.

The men who have ruled and will rule are being moved about on the chess-board of a nation's destiny—kings, queens, bishops, knights and pawns. It is a great game, spectacular in its living importance and political significance. It is a great game, and a nation may well view it with breathless anxiety and interest.

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Criticism Gives Way to Praise.

FOR the time being, criticism has given way to praise. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by his urbanity, gracefulness and courage in the hour of political defeat, is winning encomiums from friend and foe. It has been rendered clear that the Liberals who voted against the Laurier reciprocity proposition did so with great reluctance so far as Sir Wilfrid himself was concerned. It has also been made equally clear that the Conservatives regard Sir Wilfrid as a great Canadian, and that they desire to make his descent from office as easy and as pleasant as possible. This speaks well for the people and as much for Sir Wilfrid.

Likewise all criticism of Mr. Borden has been abandoned, and there is nothing but praise for his general bearing and his political leadership. He has shown no undue elation over his victory, no amateurish spirit of triumph, no churlishness such as is sometimes exhibited by men to whom worldly success comes suddenly. In this hour of victory, he has borne him-

self with dignity and courteousness to friend and foe. In this there is a promise that Canada will find in Mr. Borden a leader as deserving of the national confidence as were any of his predecessors in the high office to which he has been called.

As Canning said, "Men are everything, measures are comparatively nothing." Mr. Borden's task is to surround himself with good men, with men in whom the country will have confidence. As Sir Wilfrid was tested by his conduct in the hour of defeat, so Mr. Borden will be tested by his conduct in the hour of victory. If there is one man in his cabinet in whom the people have not the fullest confidence with regard to integrity and public spirit, he will to just that small extent fail to realize the high expectations of the country.

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The Ninth Plank.

ABOUT the middle of August, Mr. Borden issued a Manifesto to the people of Canada, which was supplementary to the statement which he issued when Parliament was dissolved on July 29th. In it he gave a pledge that, if returned to power, the Liberal-Conservative party would carry out a policy which he there laid down. In that policy there were eleven planks. The ninth runs as follows:

"(9) The extension of civil service reform."

Just what that plank means remains to be seen. The time for the reform and the extent of it have yet to be decided. But the spirit is quite clear. Mr. Borden believes that all civil servants should be removed from the realm of politics and political intrigue, given a definite assurance of permanency consistent with good conduct, and be regulated and governed by an independent commission.