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SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT is to be congratulated. When the Canadian Government had a revenue of thirty-five million dollars and an expenditure slightly larger, Sir Richard thought the people were being robbed by a set of unfeeling monsters known collectively as a cabinet. But the people didn't mind, apparently. In fact they rather enjoyed being robbed. Now we find that there is a similar set of unfeeling monsters in office and that they took out of the pockets of the people last year \$101,500,000, or nearly three times the amount taken by the robbers whom Sir Richard so roundly condemned. And lo, behold, Sir Richard is a member of the new set of robbers! What a whirligig!

How could it be wrong to take 35 millions from the people twenty years ago, and not be much more criminal to take 101 millions from the people in the last fiscal year? If Sir Richard would answer that question he would probably answer that "It all depends on who is doing the robbing." And he would be right. If Sir Richard and his friends were out of office, they would describe this 101 millions as the tolls gathered from innocent women, children and farmers, they would denounce such taxation as unnecessary, iniquitous, despicable, wicked, contemptible, and so on. Such is the game of politics.

WHILE congratulating Sir Richard on having lived to see the Canadian people pay 101 million dollars in one year into the coffers of the federal government, there is another point to which his attention should be directed. Every writer on government finance, who is an acknowledged authority in university or in text-book, points out that no government should take more from the people than it needs. In other words, there should never be a surplus of income over expenses. In spite of this teaching by the great financiers of the world, past and present, the Dominion Government claims to have a surplus of 22 million dollars. Here is the crime made infinitely worse.

What would be thought of the civic financiers of Toronto or Montreal, if they were to collect twenty per cent. more taxes than were needed to pay the civic expenses of the year? What would be thought of a Montreal or Toronto Board of Control which announced to the people of the city, that it had a surplus of one million dollars? Would not the members of that Board of Control be condemned as unpatriotic, unwise, unjust, stupid, and the like? Would they not be speedily removed at the next election?

If an annual surplus is wrong in civic affairs, why is it right in provincial or Dominion affairs? As Sir Richard may be too busy to answer this question, perhaps some of our readers will help in its elucidation.

EVERY free-trade authority on the continent claims that the reign of high tariffs in the United States is nearly over. Ordinarily this state of affairs would not greatly interest us. To-day it does. If the United States tariff is coming down then this is a most inopportune time to negotiate reciprocity.

The only reason why Canada would consider reciprocity, which means giving and taking, is a desire to get our products and wares into the United States at lower rates than is now possible. If this same result is likely to be secured in the near future without any effort on our part, why enter upon negotiations? Why should Canada lower a low tariff to get an advantage which is sure to come whether she lowers her tariff or not?

OF course, Mr. Doubter will say that he is not sure that the United States tariff is steadily decaying, that he desires to see freer trade established on this continent, and that he would enter upon reciprocity negotiations if the United States is willing. Mr. Doubter is therefore requested to read the editorials in the free-trade papers

## REFLECTIONS

BY THE EDITOR

of both the United States and Canada. These are prophesying that after the congressional elections in November next there will be a decided movement towards lower duties.

For example, the *Toronto Globe*, which has played such an important part in bringing about reciprocity negotiations, says in its issue of June 11th, speaking editorially:

"There will be an election in November and as the day draws nearer, indications are becoming more and more plain that the tariff is to be the great question."

"The outlook is not bright for the continuance of a high tariff. The Democrats are against it and the South is with them. The Insurgents are against it, and they have a good chance to win the West. Consumers are tired of paying double prices, and even manufacturers are coming to see that under free trade there are advantages which they have been missing all these years."

If all this is true why should Canada enter upon reciprocity negotiations? Why not wait until this high tariff comes down a peg, and then start in to barter tariff reductions?

THERE is another point which must be emphasised again and again. Statistics as to average import duties are unreliable. For example, were the duty on apples coming into Canada from the United States, one dollar per bushel (or say 80 per cent.) we would not import any apples. If the duty on oranges were 5 per cent., we would import many oranges. The average would then be worked out as follows:

#### Importations 1910-11.

Apples—	\$20 value .... duty paid (80%) ....	\$ 16.00
Oranges—	\$20,000 value .... duty paid (5%) .....	1,000.00
Ttl. impts. \$20,020		Total duty \$1,016.00
Average duty 5.07 per cent.		

Now suppose the duty on apples to be lowered to 10 per cent., and this importation to follow:

#### Importations 1911-12.

Apples—	\$20,000 value .... duty paid (10%) .....	\$2,000
Oranges—	20,000 value .... duty paid (5%) .....	1,000
\$40,000		\$3,000
Average duty 7.5 per cent.		

In the second case the figures show a higher rate of duty than in the first, though in reality the second tariff is the more reasonable. Therefore no one should be misled by averages. When any one tells you that the average duty paid on United States imports is 21 per cent., do not let it delude you into thinking that the United States tariff is low. It is a high tariff, with many prohibitive clauses. It prohibits Canadian paper, Canadian wool, Canadian barley, Canadian eggs, and many other commodities by a tariff so high that it is an impassable barrier.

The figures show that the United States pays 21 per cent. duty on its total imports; the truth is that its industries have a protection on the average of 50 per cent.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SAM HUGHES was in town last week and went to a baseball match. Besides being a military man, president of the Dominion Rifle Association, a member of the House of Commons, a member of the small-arms committee, Col. Hughes is a good sportsman. His name is written indelibly in lacrosse records and he can tell of many a doughty struggle on the baseball diamond. This week he is commandant of the military camp at Barriefield, Kingston.

Just now Col. Hughes is a proud man—prouder than usual. This arises from the fact that General French in an address to the garrison at Montreal paid a high compliment to the Ross rifle which Col. Hughes has so faithfully championed. General French has effectually