

LIBERAL MOTIONS RE: RECIPROCITY

1919 and 1921

1.

McInister Motion

On March 25th, 1919, Mr. A. R. McInister, Liberal Member of Parliament for Bruce, moved in the House of Commons, that the offer of Reciprocity contained in the Reciprocal Trade Agreement now upon the Statute books of the United States of America, should be immediately accepted in its integrity, and that legislation for that purpose should be introduced forthwith. This motion, supported by the Liberals and opposed by the Conservatives, was defeated.

(House of Commons Debates 1919, Vol.1, P.756)

2.

Fielding Motion

In 1921, the Honourable W. S. Fielding, as a Member of the Liberal Opposition introduced a similar motion, pointing to the Republican victories in the United States and to the threat to Canadian primary producers which lay in the projected Fordney tariff.

Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, in opposing the motion said, "The argument is Reciprocity, friendly free trade. The real argument today if it means anything is that Canada is to give up anything and everything still left by way of tariff protection."

(House of Commons Debates 1921, Vol.3, pp.2038-2042)

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M19: 26, J 4, volume 218, pages C148414-C149379)

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