

THE CAMPBELLTON GRAPHIC

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Distinctly Understood

From the letter of Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. William Patterson to Secretary Knox, January 21st

"Nevertheless, it is distinctly understood that we do not attempt to bind for the future the action of the United States Congress or the Parliament of Canada, but that each of these authorities SHALL BE ABSOLUTELY FREE TO MAKE ANY CHANGE OF TARIFF POLICY OR OF ANY OTHER MATTER COVERED BY THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT that may be deemed expedient."

From the letter of P. C. Knox, United States Secretary of State, in reply, January 21, 1911:

"I take great pleasure in replying that your statement of the proposed arrangement is entirely in accord with my understanding of it."

John Herron, Conservative candidate in MacLeod, Alberta, puts the matter in a nutshell:

The agreement can be cancelled at any time with a stroke of the pen."

The agreement will be of tremendous advantage to all classes of Canadians, but if we want to cancel it we can always do so at a moments notice. Conservatives have shamelessly asserted the the contrary, but the words of the agreement speak for themselves

INDEPENDENT WITHDRAWS

Mr. Wm. Murray has retired. This was the word given out at the great political demonstration last Friday evening.

After spending two weeks interviewing the electors of the different parishes and listening to the advice of those of the Liberal party who were his real friends, Mr. Wm. Murray withdrew from the field and will throw his influence in with the Liberals to elect Mr. Reid.

While the Liberals never had a doubt but that Mr. Reid would carry the county, the withdrawal of the independent candidate will assure his election with a very large majority.

THE CONSERVATIVE COLLAPSE

The campaign is now almost within a week of its conclusion and it may be timely and proper to consider the progress of the canvass on both sides, and some of the more important features which have emerged as the battle has approached its climax.

When the elections were first announced, the Conservative party flooded the country with a large number of misleading, false, but in some instances plausible arguments against the government of the day and the principal plank in its platform, reciprocity.

Before the campaign had grown a week old, the weakness of the Conservative opposition began to become plain. A year previous Mr. Borden had been thundering against the Canadian navy, and in the previous campaign he pinned his face, during the opening weeks at least, to something now dimly described as the "Halifax Platform." But to-day, except where Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Borden's other seditionist allies rage in Quebec, Canada hears little of the navy question, and the "Halifax

Platform" which Mr. Borden enunciated in the campaign of 1908, has been inconspicuously whistled down the wind. During the second week of the present campaign Conservative leaders and lieutenants from Halifax to Vancouver began to depend upon two principal arguments against the Laurier administration.

One of these was that reciprocity would lead toward annexation, or, as many of the more reckless Conservatives expressed it, would certainly lead to annexation.

The other was that as the United States is a tremendous grower of agricultural products, the Canadian farmer, instead of deriving the promised benefits from reciprocity, would see his own markets taken from him by his more numerous American competitors.

While these two were made the main arguments by Conservatives, there were other attempts to confuse the issue, and nearly all of them were sheerly dishonest, such as the effort to create the impression that the proposed tariff changes involved manufactured goods as well as natural products.

To-day there is no intelligent audience anywhere in Canada to whom these Conservative arguments may be addressed directly without bringing confusion upon their authors. The annexation bogey has been made ridiculous in each of the nine provinces. Not only has it been proved, again and again; that Sir John Macdonald and other Conservative leaders sought in vain to get reciprocity, but it has been shown by quotations from the records that they sought an actual and binding treaty, and not a mere trade agreement such as is now contemplated.

So soon as their principal campaign magazine was exploded by the Liberals, opposition speakers

and newspapers began to assert that the trade agreement, while not formally a treaty, could not be abrogated if once entered into. This argument was promptly answered and exposed by quoting the language of the agreement itself and the letters of Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Patterson, and the United States Secretary of State, in which it is specifically set forth that the agreement may be terminated by either party to it whenever such action may be deemed expedient.

So, in no part of Canada, today is there any considerable body of electors who do not understand thoroughly that the trade agreement, like any other tariff law, can be changed at will. As for the annexation talk, the electors understand fully that our trade with the United States has grown enormously since 1896, and that, although this trade has been multiplied by four, Canada is not less loyal but more loyal, if that were possible, than it was fifteen years ago. They know that the trade agreement will not constitute a fiscal revolution, but that it involves only about twenty-three per cent. of our trade with the United States, and that it merely facilitates the entry of our products into their natural market, into which market every Canadian statesman of note for forty years past has desired that they should have free entry, realizing that any other policy must prove a clog upon the progress of this country.

We come next to another exploded argument—that the Canadian farmer, and Canadians generally, will suffer from American competition. So thoroughly has this fallacious contention been exposed that today it is nowhere regarded seriously in this country. Within the boundaries of the United States there is the greatest free trade area in all the world. When the Conservatives began to tell us that millions of American farmers would flood the small markets of the Maritime Provinces with agricultural products, the argument looked formidable for just about five minutes. Then the case of the farmers of Maine cropped up. The other forty-five states have not succeeded in flooding the markets of Maine with agricultural products; although the Maine farmers have no tariff to protect them against the rest of their own country which contains some ninety millions of people, they are more prosperous than ours. As the Maritime Provinces are somewhat more remote from the American agricultural states than is Maine, there is no reason in the world why American farm competition is to be feared here any more than it is in Maine.—Telegraph.

WHAT MR. HAZEN DIDN'T SAY.

He did not tell the electors of Campbellton that the measure of Reciprocity proposed by the Liberal government was the same as he himself upon the public platform so strongly proclaimed not so many months ago.

Nor that the Unrestricted Reciprocity platform of 1891 was not the Reciprocity in natural products as proposed today.

Nor that almost every great Conservative statesman from Sir John A. Macdonald to the present day endeavored to get just such a Reciprocity agreement.

Nor did he say anything about Bourassa, Monk, Foster or Fowler.

Nor did he explain how more and better trade relations with the United States would lead to annexation. He said it would. Why believe him rather than disinterested English statesmen who say its all bona.

Citizens listening to Hon. Mr. Hazen's remarks were struck with the weakness of his arguments against Reciprocity. The most of his time was taken up by a defence of Canadian industrial enterprises, which he feared would be affected not by the present measure of Reciprocity, but by further tariff revision. Electors never have free trade with the United States. As Mr. Hazen was formerly in favor of Reciprocity in natural products he no doubt felt it difficult to criticise an agreement which he knew would prove so favorable to Canada.

Mr. Hazen quoted the matter of potatoes in the United States last year. He might have quoted this year's prices. We do not ask our readers to take our word for it but would suggest that they ask Messrs. C. Smith or W. W. Doherty, two leading conservatives what they learned at Presque Isle during a pleasure trip to that potato centre. Potatoes selling at \$1.75 on the Canadian side they were \$1.25.

Mr. Hazen told us about the hand-picked Liberal millionaires who were lending their assistance to defeat Reciprocity. Well what of it. Many honest Conservatives, who have no million are just as zealously working for Reciprocity.

According to Mr. Hazen Reciprocity will mean the flooding of the Canadian farmers' markets and reducing prices of farm produce, and at the same time make the prices to the working man higher. Clear as mud isn't it.

And now its Newfoundland. When Canada gets reciprocity this colony will enter the Dominion.

The Standard says sixteen people attended Dr. Pugsley's Kent Co. meeting and the Moncton Times says twenty-eight. Someone must lie.

Vote for Reid Reciprocity and Prosperity.

Mr. Reid is Campbellton's friend.

Vote for Reid and larger markets.

Those Conservatives who are coming out in favor of reciprocity are showing the combiners that they have a mind of their own, and are not going to be misled by their false appeals against the removal of tariff taxation.

Under reciprocity the abnormal profits of the combines will be cut down, thereby allowing the producer to get more for his pockets and enabling the consumer to buy at a lower price.

Don't run away with the idea that the producers alone will benefit by reciprocity. The consumers will reap advantage, too.

Keep in mind the fact that reciprocity means the removal of an unnecessary burden.

A vote for an opposition candidate in this contest is a vote for Bourassaism.

Get in line with the free traders.

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Notice

I have purchased the stock and goodwill of H. S. Alexander and will continue to conduct the business as heretofore.

I ask the public to give me a share of their patronage.

PETER JAMIESON, Campbellton, Sept. 1.

I have sold the stock and goodwill of my business in Campbellton to Mr. Peter Jamieson and would ask for the same generous patronage extended to me in the past.

Thanking all for past favors. I remain yours truly, H. S. ALEXANDER

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