

9. Reciprocal trade on fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world.

The quotation contained in the paragraph preceding this resolution defines the position of the Liberal party upon the general question of reciprocal trade. The resolution regarding enlarged markets and reciprocity, adopted by the National Liberal Convention, affirms that the period of the old reciprocity treaty with the United States was one of marked prosperity for the British North American colonies. It asserts truthfully that no honest effort has been made by the present Government to obtain such a treaty, as it would not be in the interest of the combines and monopolies whom the Government serves; and it declares that the Liberal party is prepared to enter into negotiations to secure a fair and liberal reciprocity treaty with the United States, including a well-considered list of manufactured articles. One of the first steps of importance taken by the Mackenzie Government was the attempt to obtain a reciprocity treaty in the year 1874. A treaty which would have proved highly advantageous to Canada was negotiated by Hon. George Brown and Lord Thornton with the United States State Department, but failed to receive the sanction of the United States Senate. At no time since 1874 have the Liberal leaders ceased to desire an honorable and equitable reciprocity treaty with the United States, and when again permitted to manage negotiations there is little reason to doubt that such a treaty would soon be secured by them. (See resolutions 1 and 2, Liberal platform.)

10. Effectual legislation that will protect labor and the results of labor from those combinations and monopolies which unduly enhance the price of the articles produced by such combinations and monopolies.

Rings, combinations and monopolies can only exist in the absence of keen and untrammelled competition. Such competition can only be avoided through the intervention of a protective tariff which imposes duties designed to exclude foreign goods and prevent foreign competition. With such a tariff in force domestic manufactures can form rings and combinations and unduly enhance prices. Under a moderate revenue tariff such combinations cannot exist, because outside competition cannot be prevented. It follows that the Liberal policy of a moderate revenue tariff will effectually protect labor and the results of labor from combinations and monopolies, and the Liberal trade policy will fully meet the demand of this resolution. (See resolution 1, Liberal platform.)

11. Prohibition of the bonusing of railways by Government grants, as contrary to the public interest.

The policy of bonusing railways by cash and land grants from the Dominion Government has become a fruitful source of jobbery, speculation and corruption. Under its operation favorites of the Government have been enriched. Appropriations have been made for the sole purpose of purchasing the support of constituencies, and vast sums of public money have been voted without regard to the public interest, while millions of acres of land that should have been held in trust by the Government for the future homes of hardy and deserving settlers, have been handed over without consideration or justification, to charter-hawkers, whose intervention actually retards the construction of the lines whose franchise they control, for the purpose of extorting money from the ultimate builders of the roads. The policy of granting these subsidies has repeatedly been condemned in Parliament by the Liberal party, and this resolution is in harmony with the attitude of the Liberal party upon this question. (See resolutions 3 and 6, Liberal platform.)