

THE HERALD

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A Propensity to Break Agreements.

The avowed intention of the Congress of the United States to ignore the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, now that it has been discovered that the treaty prohibits discrimination against foreign shipping using the Panama Canal, is another striking violation of the position taken by the Canadian people in condemning the Reciprocity Agreement.

At the outset of the Reciprocity negotiations the United States expressed a desire for complete free trade with Canada; they ordered it, they intended to get it, The Taft Fielding Agreement was but a means to an end.

The evidence on this point is conclusive. We have President Taft's statements that he made overtures for Reciprocity with Canada in order to destroy "the Chinese wall" of Protection and to prevent the completion of the "Imperial Commercial Band reaching from England around the world to England again."

In support of the contention that the United States would have had little regard for the terms of the Agreement the opinion of Sir Rodmond P. Roblin, Premier of Manitoba, in a recent interview in the Winnipeg Telegram is of some interest.

"These newspapers," he continued, "seem to think that the people of Canada have changed their minds. They will in due course of events discover their mistake. For my part, I am more strongly opposed to Reciprocity than I ever was, and I will tell you why I opposed Reciprocity as proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier; because

I was Canadian and British, and desired to remain so. I also had a faith and spirit of independence that justified me in believing that Canada would not only continue to prosper, but that the ratio of prosperity would be increased if kept free from all entanglements with a foreign nation. I had convictions and subsequent events have proven they were justified, that there was not good faith on the part of the other party to the arrangement.

"The disclosures that took place a little while ago, wherein it was stated by the head of the great nation to the south of us that the purpose and object was simply 'to make Canada an adjunct of the United States,' was a confirmation of my fears.

"However, we have at this moment something that is more significant, and it should cause every man who is Canadian and British to thank God that we were saved the humiliation and possible political debasement that would have followed had Reciprocity carried.

"In the year 1901 an agreement was made between the British Empire and the people of the United States in what is known as the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. In consideration of England surrendering certain rights that she had secured by previous treaties, the United States agreed by what is recognized as binding by nations, not to fortify the canal. This treaty was completed under the express understanding that there was to be no discrimination and that the British ships were to be permitted to pass on the same conditions as American ships.

"If the United States will treat with contempt, abrogate, and defy by legislative action, as is proposed, the conditions of a treaty made with the British Empire, with how much more contempt and indifference would they evade and over-ride the terms of a treaty or arrangement with Canada, if in their interest to do so? No individual waking from the horrors of the nightmare should be more thankful that the seeming condition was not a reality than should the people of Canada at this moment, that Reciprocity did not carry.

"If there is any citizen in this Dominion who says that he is willing to tie himself up with the United States after such a revelation as is now on the diplomatic boards of the world, and which the better class of journals in the United States confess with shame to be a disgrace, then that citizen is wanting in ability to understand current events. He is credulous to a degree that makes him a menace to himself and friends, or is indifferent as to the future of Canada.

"There is another phase of the question. While Great Britain and the whole British Empire are in a general way interested in the Panama Canal, the chief interest centres in Canada. The British protest made against the legislation now before Congress was made on behalf of Canada and at Canada's request. Now just suppose for a moment that Canada was not part of the British Empire. Suppose she was acting on her own authority, what weight would her protest have at Washington? Why, there

would be no more attention paid to it than there would to the objections of a petty South American republic. I repeat that all the citizens of Canada who are Canadian and British, and desire to remain so, should for the reason above set forth thank God that the Reciprocity Pact did not carry."

The accuracy of Premier Roblin's conclusions cannot be denied. Canada once in the toils—her old trade routes disorganized, her position as a producer for the world's markets sacrificed for closer trade relations with the United States—the trusts, the combines and the manufacturing interests, having waited patiently while the trap was set, would have demanded free entry to the Canadian market. This result would not have been difficult to obtain. The demand for free trade would have been accompanied with the intimation that otherwise the United States would abrogate the Agreement. Canada would have found herself between the devil and the Sea. That the United States would not have hesitated to break the Agreement if self-interest demanded it is evident from their attitude with regard to the Hay Pauncefote treaty.—St. John Standard.

The diplomatic Problem of the Panama Canal which Great Britain must put up to the United States in as soft words as possible is "Why make a blamed hog of yourself."—Toronto Star.

The new Dominion five-dollar notes, now in circulation, are pronounced a work of art. The process of acquiring a quantity of them is also one of the fine arts.—Vancouver Province.

There is more joy in a printing office over one sinner that pays in advance and abuses the editor on every possible occasion than there is over ninety and nine who borrow the paper and sing its praises without contributing a cent to keep it out of the poor house.—Cranbrook Prospector.

The treaty of mutual trade benefits which was signed at Ottawa last April by representatives of the British West Indies and members of the Canadian government, has been ratified by all the Islands with the exception of Trinidad. It is expected that Trinidad will ratify the treaty within a week.

The Borden Government has acted promptly and properly in asking the diplomatic intervention of the British Government to secure the treaty rights of Canada in the use of the Panama Canal. This is a matter in which considerations of political partisanship can have no place, and in the maintenance of the rights of this country to the uttermost. Mr. Borden will have behind him the unanimous support of the Canadian people.—Toronto Globe, Liberal.

It is the law that no foreign vessel can transport goods between ports of the United States, what is called the coastwise trade. Other nations have similar rules with respect to their own countries. There is no quarrel about that. But to build a canal at a cost of hundreds of millions and make that free to our vessels under the plea that they are engaged in coastwise trade seems very like an evasion of treaty compact.—Buffalo News.

News of a seizure only effected after a fusillade of rifle shots had been fired and

when the vessel had been finally run down and captured while she was attempting to escape, developed when the fishery protection cruiser Newington arrived at Victoria B. C. on the 17th, with the American gasoline launch Bonita, of Seattle in tow. The vessel was captured off the west coast of Vancouver Island, while poaching, and now lies in port awaiting confiscation as a prize.

A Feature of the Census.

The decline of the small town and village community is a feature of the movement of population as indicated by a comparison of the census reports of 1901 and 1911. In an instructive review of the situation the Montreal Gazette points out that the larger cities in Canada generally have grown, some of them in a notable way. Some of the towns also have shown increases that speak of energetic and successful business enterprise.

There are in all parts of the country, however, places which are on the decline, whose business has suffered collapse, or which from some cause or other has failed to fulfil their peoples earlier hopes. Prominent among these in Ross land, B. C., which in 1911 had 3,430 people less than in 1901, The collapse of the mining boom is indicated also in the falling away in population of Greenwood, Sandon and Phoenix in the same Province. Considerable declines are also recorded in the case of Deseronto, Ont., which in ten years lost 1,514 people, and of Valleyfield, Quebec, which has 1,606 fewer inhabitants last year than in 1901.

From these figures the losses in individual cases run down through the hundreds to a few score or a dozen or less. Some places are on the down grade. Some are only standing still. The number of these communities is in its way the notable thing. Of the towns and incorporated villages there are recorded decreases of population in 1911 compared with 1901, in a hundred and ten cases in Ontario, in thirty cases in Quebec, in eight cases each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in seven cases in Manitoba, as well as in three cases in Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Saskatchewan are practically too young yet to figure in such a list; but their day will come without doubt.

The experience is one known to all communities. It is an accompaniment of development, and follow the concentration of industries and improvement in the processes of production of merchandise, which, makes it impracticable for the small manufacturer and the handicraftsman to meet the competition of the specialized factory, works to centre production in certain localities and draws away from the smaller or unfavorably situated community both trade and population.—St. John Standard.

Advantages of Co-operation.

The advantage of a system of Imperial Unity is made apparent by the action of New Zealand and Australia in connection with the Panama canal. It was at the instance of Canada that the Imperial Government took action by registering a protest against a discrimination which more particularly affected Canada. This has been followed up by the House of Representatives of Australia, which has passed a strong resolution condemning discrimination in favor of American shipping as being detrimental to the interests of Australia. Meantime the attention of the British foreign minister has been drawn to the fact that New Zealand has an act empowering its government to impose retaliatory prohibitions and restrictions upon the shipping of any foreign country which imposes restrictions or prohibitions on British ships carrying passengers or freight coastwise. It is intimated that the New Zealanders will assume that "British" would include Canadian. In union is strength.



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