

Mr. Oliver on Reciprocity

Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the interior, supported by T. C. Norris, M.P.P. and S. H. McKay, held a successful meeting in support of reciprocity at the Brandon opera house on Saturday night.

At the close the following resolution proposed by W. H. Johnston, president of the Brandon Grain Growers' Association, and seconded by Allan Leslie, ex-revere of Cornwallis, was carried unanimously.

"That this meeting heartily endorses the reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States now before the Parliament of Canada for ratification, expresses its regret at the opposition to the agreement passing the House and urges the government to do everything possible to have it agreed to."

Mr. Johnston explained that he was not at the meeting as a Liberal, but as a farmer, and as president of an association which had asked for reciprocity. Farmers, he said, were coming west to enable the farmers to cut their wheat teeth, and the infant industries down East would lose the toll. The farmers desired to have all Canadian duties on farm products removed, so that the manufacturers would no longer be able to say that the farmers were protected.

The Minister's Address

Mr. Oliver said he believed that the farmers, when they asked for reciprocity last December, had little idea of the magnitude which the question would soon assume. No longer was the question confined to Canada—The United States and the United Kingdom were now both energetically discussing it. He accepted as a first principle of economics that taxation should be heavy on luxuries, and light on food stuffs. For every industry of every kind and description in Canada lived, moved and had its being absolutely and entirely upon the work of the initial producer and every legitimate interest in Canada depended on the initial producing industries, notably and above all others that of agriculture. The expansion of the farming industry depended upon the profit the farmer could make and, in turn, the profit he could make depended upon the market he could get. Upon that principle the Dominion government had taken its life in its hands. It had introduced the reciprocity agreement into Parliament and was prepared to press the question to a conclusion before the country. Mr. Oliver said he did not believe that men from the broad prairies of the West would ever make a demand upon the government for a policy of sectional interest.

Some of the leading millers had declared themselves against reciprocity. They had declared that reciprocity would injure their industry. If the objection of the millers was that they would have to bid more highly for the farmers' wheat, that, to his mind, was not an objection to the agreement either from the standpoint of the farmer or of the country at large.

Reciprocity and Trusts

It was stated, proceeded Mr. Oliver, that the agreement would bring Canada within the reach of the gigantic trusts of the United States. The growth of trusts was one of the new and important problems which civilization had produced and with which the people would have to deal. Mr. Oliver thought that Canada herself was doing fairly well in the matter of trusts. At the beginning of 1910 the Monetary Times, of Toronto, had published a list of mergers floated during 1909. There had been 10 such mergers and they had merged into those 10 combinations business enterprises which formerly had been distributed throughout 50 organizations. The capitalization of those 10 mergers into which the 50 original businesses had been condensed, had been arranged at \$195,000,000 divided into \$90,000,000 of common stock, \$35,000,000 of preferred stock and \$70,000,000 of bonds. While on the one hand 50 enterprises had been condensed into 10, contrariwise the nominal capital of those 50 enterprises had expanded at least 100 per cent. The bond issues of \$70,000,000 had served to pay for the actual value of the 50 different plants. The \$35,000,000 preferred stock had been issued to pay for the share capital that had been subscribed in the original 50 companies and the \$90,000,000 of common stock formed what was technically known

as a million and was divided among the people who had furnished the actual money to take up the preferred stock and bonds.

Under the Law

That was, said Mr. Oliver, a perfectly legitimate transaction under the law. Thus those mergers carried a load of two dollars for every dollar in them. The efforts of the men who paid the one dollar, but held the two dollars, was to secure such an arrangement as would give a profit on the two dollars instead of only on the one dollar.

It was precisely those men who were behind the anti-reciprocity agreement. Merger formation had continued in 1910, and today they had probably to deal with men holding from \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 of industrial stock. Through the newspapers they had heard the details of the Canadian cement merger. Ten cement companies had been condensed into one. There had been issued \$11,000,000 of common stock, \$11,000,000 of preferred stock, and \$5,000,000 of bonds, in all \$27,000,000.

Such interests as these were legitimate and practical. Their operations had been called high finance. They represented predatory wealth. As all roads led to Rome, so all anti-reciprocity arguments led to the homes of the mergers in Montreal and Toronto.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

There is now sitting in London a conference representative of the various self-governing units of the British Empire. Britain is represented by the colonial secretary, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, and other cabinet ministers will participate in the proceedings as matters which affect their particular departments come up for discussion. Canada has as her spokesman, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, by reason of his seniority, his international prestige and unique personality, is probably the outstanding figure of the conference. South Africa sends General Botha, late commander of the Boer forces and first premier of the Union; Australia, Mr. Fisher, originally a Scotch miner, who has risen to be leader of the labor party and premier of the Commonwealth; and New Zealand, Sir Joseph Ward, a progressive administrator and ardent Imperialist. Newfoundland also has a representative in Sir Edward Morris and various subordinate members of the cabinet of the Dominions are in attendance.

The constitution of the body thus composed is informal and its discussions are governed by no definite rules or limits. The subjects of the deliberations, however, embrace all matters which are of common concern to the citizens of the British Empire and therefore have necessarily a wide scope. Each Dominion is asked beforehand to submit a list of subjects of which it desires discussion. Canada is so satisfied with the present situation that she has made no suggestions, but New Zealand has set down a most ambitious list of problems for consideration. Africa and Australia are more moderate in their proposals. Underlying the various proposals can be traced a desire to bring into harmony the organizations of the various parts of the Empire, as, for example, by securing uniform laws about naturalization and marriage, uniform immigration regulations and co-operation in defence.

Declaration of London

There are not likely to be raised any vital and controversial questions of commercial policy, such as Imperial Preference, now that the British electorate has declared against it in three successive elections. The home government has seen fit to submit for the approval of the over-seas delegates, the Declaration of London, which is in point of fact an international agreement to change and regulate the existing rules of naval warfare. Certain critics in Britain have vigorously opposed it on the ground that it is disadvantageous to Britain as the leading naval power, but the conference has unanimously recommended its ratification.

Foreign Affairs

In connection with this discussion there has arisen the problem of the system of managing the foreign policy of the Empire and of the extent to which the statesmen

of the over-seas states should be consulted on questions which may concern the whole Empire. There is a feeling that since the Dominions are making a considerable contribution to the armament of the Empire, they should have some say in policies which may necessitate the use of these armaments. Sir Joseph Ward is the chief spokesman of a forward school, which demands a permanent Imperial Council and fixed organization, but his proposals have met but little support. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the other hand, is content to leave the control of foreign affairs in general in the hands of the Imperial Government with the reservation that Canada should be free to make her own commercial treaties and control her immigration laws, and Premier Fisher and Botha take the same line to the great indignation of the British Tory press. At present the majority opinion seems to be that public sentiment in no British community is ripe for any advance from the existing informal organization.

Ministry of Imperial Affairs

Sooner or later however there will be evolved, and proposed, some definite scheme for the better management of affairs of common interest. The most feasible of all the various suggestions seems to be that the colonial office should be split up into two divisions, one for the Crown Colonies and the other for the self-governing Dominions, each with separate ministers. As a complementary step there should be created in each Dominion cabinet a ministry of imperial affairs. These five ministries would have as their business the discussion and investigation of the common problems of the Empire and would act as an advisory committee whose recommendations would have no executive force, but would command serious weight with future conferences and the communities which they represent. Part of their duties would be to travel through various Dominions and visit Britain so that they might form a link of communication between the separate cabinets and be in a position to educate not only the statesmen but also the citizens of each country on imperial affairs. Public interest in common problems and responsibilities would be kept alive in a manner now impossible. But, apparently, at this conference no definite steps will be taken towards this end. The Dominions in the absence of any pressing danger see no necessity of derogating from their autonomy and any proposals for a definite scheme of organization must come from them rather than from the home government.

No Jingoism There

The results of the conference are likely to be satisfactory to all concerned and nothing but complete harmony is expected. Jingoism will find few friends at this council table and great will be the wrath of those zealous Imperialists who desire to unite everything and everybody in a hard and fast centralized tariff bound organization. An able and courageous Liberal government is in power at Westminster. General Botha must be deeply sensible of its generosity in South African matters. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has no sympathy with rash Imperialism, and a Labor premier like Mr. Fisher can see few merits in the policy of Imperial Toryism. In such hands there is no danger of any rash or precipitate steps and the inhabitants of the Empire can rest assured that however pressing their domestic grievances may be the administration of the external affairs of the Empire is in safe and capable hands.

BIRD'S HILL PLOWING MATCH

A clear, warm day and a pleasant breeze made ideal weather conditions for the eleventh annual plowing match of the Bird's Hill Agricultural institute, rendering it the most successful match in the history of the association. The only drawback was the condition of the soil, which was heavy and rather sticky

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on account of Saturday night's heavy rainfall. Consequently almost all the contestants finished outside of the time allowance, while in several fields heavy growth of dock thistles and French weed rendered it somewhat difficult to cover weeds completely.

The match was held on the farm of W. C. Matheson, in Springfield, just adjoining Wood's siding, and attracted a field of seventeen entries, among whom were several of the most prominent plowers in the province.

List of Winners

The possible number of points in each class was one hundred, made up as follows: For straightness, 15 points; tearing, 15 points; in and out at ends, 15 points; depth of furrow, 10 points; evenness of land, 15 points; finish, 15 points; and for covering weeds and stubble, 25 points.

The number of points obtained by different contestants was as follows, each competition having four prizes, if there were sufficient entries:

Class 1, boys sixteen years and under: J. MacBeth, 70; A. George, 67; W. Waugh, 66; E. Ponasky, 52. MacBeth wins the Eaton cup and watch or plow.

Class 2, boys twenty-three years and under: P. Hoddinott, 84½; F. Henderson, 84; R. George 78; J. Black, 75; A. Humein, 72. Hoddinott wins the grand sweepstakes cup and the Hudson's Bay tin cup.

Class 3, men twenty-one and over: W. J. Harrison, the only entry, 70 points.

Class 4, sweepstakes, open to any plowman on the field, a member of the institute: won by P. Hoddinott.

Class 5, gauge: A. Studham, the only entry, 75 points.

Class 6, open championship: H. Bushnell, 82½; E. Garvin, 76½; R. W. Lumgair, 78; W. J. Smith, 69; and E. Franks, 68.

Special prizes of three and two dollars were awarded to J. Black and P. Henderson respectively for the best plow team on the field.

MANITOBA FAIR DATES

The Manitoba Agricultural society's summer fair dates as arranged for 1911 are as follows:

April 29, Roland.

During July—Souris 12-13, Morris 4, Emerson 6, Morden 45, St. Pierre 12, Minnedosa 20-21, Wawanesa 4, Hartney 6, Melita 7, Miami 4, Carman (Dufferin) 5-6, Carberry 7-8, Cypress River 7, Glenora 1, Crystal City 19.

During August—Deloraine 1, Boissevain 2, Pilot Mound 3, Manitou 4, Elkhorn 1-2, Oak Lake 1, Gladstone 4, Dauphin 8-9, Roblin 10, Gilbert Plains 11, Miniota 1, Harding 2, Rapid City 3, Hamiota 4, Sanford 1, Swan Lake 5, Treherne 2, Russell 8, Shoal Lake 9, Birtle 10, Strathclair 11, MacGregor 9, Roston 8-9, Binscarth 2, Oak River 10, St. Vital 23-24.

September—Brokenhead 29-30, Giroux 27-28, Headingley 12 or 13, Kildonan 13, Ste. Rose du Lac 20.

October—Springfield 5, Kelwood 3, St. Jean 3, Stonewall 3-4, Woodlands No. 1, 6, Rossburn 5.

SIR WILFRID HAS THROAT TROUBLE

London, June 12.—The Morning Post states that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been ordered to remain indoors for a short period owing to having contracted throat trouble.

THE GUIDE "SEED GRAIN FOR SALE AND WANTED" columns furnish prompt and economical means by which the farmer who has seed to sell can get in touch with the man who needs it, and vice versa.