

RECIPROCITY FROM AN INDEPENDENT POINT OF VIEW NO. II.

To the Editor—I have read with great care and greater interest Premier McBridge's goldstream address. The pleasure of criticizing that address is very much enhanced by the opportunity it affords me to pay a just tribute to that distinguished statesman. The Premier is a man of great ability, of unquestioned integrity, and of lofty patriotism; but all of these, to which may be added many excellent qualities, do not render him immune from that infirmity which, alas, besets us all—the liability to err. It is too true also that this liability to err is not infrequently enhanced when stimulated by a perfectly laudable ambition to achieve party success.

and the closer their commercial and geographical relations the more acute the rivalry. Hundreds of illustrations might be drawn from the experience of contiguous villages, towns and cities. The two great cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, situated in the state of Minnesota, are so closely united by continuous streets, so closely combined by a network of wire and rail, as to constitute practically and commercially but one city. Thousands of its oldest inhabitants would be unable to locate a line of division; and yet an intense rivalry exists, and has always existed, between them. The following story, the truth of which I am unable to affirm, was told to me. It was said that a new preacher had been appointed to one of the Minneapolis churches. He announced as his text a passage taken from St. Paul, whereupon every man, woman and child in the audience arose and left the church refusing to hear a sermon preached from a text from St. Paul!

Segregation rather than aggregation is the spirit that controls all English-speaking people. Take the average Canadian, and American, and he has a very strong suspicion that he is able to take care of himself; and generally speaking, he is right. Of each state or province to control its own local affairs, is so strongly implied in the history and constitution of every American and Canadian as to be beyond the reach of any adventitious appeal to a mere sentimentality.

Let us take the United States as an example. It presents the best illustration which the world affords. That country is composed of forty-six states. Many of these states were carved out of territory originally belonging to individual states; Virginia contributing a sufficient area of territory to form states larger than herself. The independence of the thirteen states was not created by dividing old states; and yet during the entire period of our history not a state has been created by uniting two or more states. Segregation rather than aggregation has been the universal rule.

But the illustration which I have used is trifling when compared to that furnished by the counties into which the states are divided. How many of these I have not taken the trouble to ascertain; a thousand will suffice to furnish the illustration. These counties serve to divide the people into communities of more or less extent. The lines separating them are invariably in many instances they could not be located by persons living contiguous to them without the aid of the county surveyor. Thousands of farmers occupy lands lying in two counties; churches and school-houses are built in many instances on or near county lines for the common benefit of citizens of both counties. In many instances they are found in towns which afford markets for the citizens of many of the surrounding counties. And as in the case of the states, so also as between the counties, there is no impost, nor tax, nor other obstruction to a perfectly free intercourse. In very many instances it would be in the interest of economy to unite some of these counties, thus dispensing with the cost of providing a large number of useless officers, and yet it is a historical fact that while hundreds of these counties have been formed by dividing old counties, there is not an instance in which a new county has been formed by uniting two or more old counties. The American people, like their Canadian brethren, are not only willing but anxious to avail themselves of the advantage of inter-county and inter-state trade and traffic, but when it comes to surrendering their communal individuality by amalgamating in a political coalition with their neighbors, they rebel at once against suggestion; and who can blame them? It is human nature, and we have and hope that ere a great many years shall have elapsed Victoria will become a great shipping port for all southwestern Canada; but does any one suppose that the province of British Columbia will ever become consolidated with any of the contiguous provinces simply because she is so closely allied with them commercially? The time may come, as sooner or later it will come in the southern part of British Columbia, will be erected into a separate province to commemorate the name of the world's greatest Queen; but no one will ever see any two provinces in Canada, or any two states in the American union consolidated; and the political union of Canada and the United States is just about as probable as the union of France and Spain under one age-discredited and antiquated Bourbon!

In my next I shall discuss the second proposition, laid down by the distinguished premier to the effect that when once the trade pact has been agreed to, the great American trader will acquire such absolute control of Canadian commerce and trade as to render emancipation impossible.

At a weekly meeting of Triumph Lodge No. 16, I. O. G. T., the following resolution, moved by Bro. J. P. Hicks and seconded by Bro. Rev. J. McFayden, was unanimously carried by a standing vote: "Resolved that this lodge, having heard the reading of this lamentable and deplorable death of our beloved brother, J. S. Bailey, the chaplain of our sister lodge, Victoria No. 84, desires to place on record our high esteem for our late brother, and for the services he has rendered the cause of Good Templar throughout his long and useful life. We would also convey his bereaved family our condolences, and assurances of sympathy with them in their hour of sorrow."

According to a report published in London during the year 1909-10, the water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board totaled \$2,395,731,671 gallons, the average daily supply per head of the estimated population being 42 1/2 gallons.

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The careful checking of the original cruise of the large tract of timber in which Sir John and his friends are interested shows that the timber contained in the property is much more than was estimated. The property lies on the west side of Cowichan lake, and is, perhaps, the most heavily timbered proposition thereabouts, and the party who have purchased the property have returned with their cruisers and the results of their inspection of the wonderful fir which they state forms fifty per cent of the timber. The feet which their bunch of timber contain.

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An inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of James Dalley, for many years port missionary of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, here, who died after a few hours illness, showed death to have been due to natural causes. Dr. Donald gave medical testimony and stated that death had resulted from weakness of the heart. The jury was deputed by A. B. Fraser (foreman), Edgar Parr, R. McGreger, Robert McKinney, and Roy Loughhead.

Court Northern Light, A. O. F., at its regular meeting on Wednesday evening, initiated seven candidates and received applications for membership. The Thirty-Eight Annual Convention of Columbia District will convene at Kamloops on Saturday. The remaining six associates of Sir John Barker, who remained on the spot completing their investigations until yesterday, and last night again reached the city.

As will be readily understood, a large amount is involved in this purchase, and the result has been the most satisfactory nature to the members of the syndicate may be gathered from the remarks made by Sir John Barker this morning. "We are more than satisfied," he said, "and we have never seen any more proposals for timber, either on the Island or on the Mainland of the province. We are not very particular as to what part of the province it is, but we are very particular as to the timber which can compare with anything in Vancouver Island—and we will give any propositions our best consideration."

Sir John also stated that the twenty-seven miles of timber land in question had purchased contained, in his opinion, the finest belt of timber in the province. He has a personal and intimate knowledge of trees, and he stated to-day that there was no timber in any part of the world like that to be found on this Island. The whole, he said, were agreeably surprised to find that the whole of the timber was even better than it had been reported to them before the purchase was made. It was unquestionably, said Sir John, the best timber he had ever seen.

The careful checking of the original cruise of the large tract of timber in which Sir John and his friends are interested shows that the timber contained in the property is much more than was estimated. The property lies on the west side of Cowichan lake, and is, perhaps, the most heavily timbered proposition thereabouts, and the party who have purchased the property have returned with their cruisers and the results of their inspection of the wonderful fir which they state forms fifty per cent of the timber. The feet which their bunch of timber contain.

The purchase of this large tract of timber by an English syndicate has been a very early and successful piece of activity in the Island. Sir John Barker—than whom no one is more impressed with the enormous possibilities of the Dominion—has been critical of the timber industry in Canada. He stated that he had visited no scenery which could compare with that on Vancouver Island. It was of great interest to him the occasion of his visit, to note that bears, moose, and all kinds of pheasant and other shooting, as well as splendid sportsmen, while still he was interested in the railway and civilization, he considered Vancouver Island a sportsman's paradise.

As regards the timber property, he had bought the timber, and he had secured the ground, found it to be twenty-seven feet in diameter, and on working the quantities he discovered that the wood, bought at a price of \$100 per acre, was a roomed house from that one tree alone. With all the magnificent timber which British Columbia had to offer, said Sir John, he would very much like to see any body who would sell to him, on a reciprocity pact, a good thing for the lumber interests. He was enormously impressed with its vast quantity and size, but he confessed he was appalled by the wholesale waste of it everywhere saw going on in the burning of wood. Why, he said, he said it for the making of paper?

The views held by Sir John Barker on reciprocity were reproduced in the paper on Saturday last, and speaking again on the same subject this morning he stated that the whole question from the broad point of view, in his opinion, was very important. It is the duty on the part of the people of Canada to enable them to see how eminently safe, sane and even truly Imperial a policy it was.

The question should be looked at in this way: He was reciprocity a good thing for the people of the Dominion? Was it going to allow Canadians to bring in what they wanted to bring in, and to sell to the Dominion, on better terms than existed at the present time? That was the whole thing, and he did not see how there could be two opinions on the subject. As it is a very important question, reciprocity must be for the very great benefit of the people of the country. And besides, if they did not like the after giving it a trial, they were at liberty to give it up. It was a very simple matter, and he thought that the party will go to Vancouver.