

**Verbatim Report of Speech delivered by The Rt.
Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, G. C. M. G., P. C.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce, Association
Hall, Toronto, on August 29, 1911.**

After complimenting the Liberals of Toronto on their gallant stand, Sir Richard proceeded:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: The matter we are about to discuss to-night is not only important in itself, but still more in its consequences. One thing I may say to you, never in all my experience was a reciprocity agreement laid before the people of Canada so modest in its terms, never one which showed such careful regard for individual interests, never one which was likely to benefit so many or so swiftly, never one likely to disturb trade so slightly, and most assuredly never one so fair to all parties concerned.

Now, sir, remembering the history of the many attempts which have been made since Lord Elgin's time to secure a measure of reciprocity between Canada and the United States, one would have supposed that a measure of this description would have passed unanimously, or at the utmost after extremely brief debate. What was the fact? That no measure which has been proposed for many a year was ever met with such clamor, with such abuse, with such misrepresentation, and never before were the artifices of parliamentary obstruction resorted to more unscrupulously, than in the course of the past few months.

TWO IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS

And here, incidentally, I may call your attention to two very important admissions made by our opponents—one, that Canada has prospered extremely during the fifteen years of Liberal rule, in fact, to such a degree, that they fear that any change in our general policy needs be for the worse; and secondly, that for the first time our worthy manufacturers are asking for no increase in the tariff, but simply that the present tariff be left alone.

Under such conditions, you may rest assured that there must be some hidden motive behind the frantic opposition which is being offered to us for introducing so reasonable and moderate a measure. I remember that that famous Scotch divine, Dr. Caird, when preaching before Queen Victoria, laid great stress upon the fact that an immense number of men's actions were prompted by hidden motives of which they themselves were scarcely aware. Probably this is the case in the present instance, and I think I could supply you with an illustration of the way in which the minds of the Opposition are affected towards reciprocity.

A STRIKING ALLEGORY

Many years ago I chanced to be driving one evening along the shore of the Bay of Fundy when I suddenly became aware of a great grunting and scampering not far away. Looking around I saw a great herd of swine galloping over a mud flat at a pace that suggested