

# The Maritime Provinces and the Reciprocity Agreement.

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## WHY THERE IS TO BE A GENERAL ELECTION.

In the ordinary course of Parliamentary affairs, the Members of the House of Commons chosen in the fall of 1908, would hold their seats a year or two longer. But circumstances have arisen which render an earlier election desirable.

For a great many years the people of Canada have earnestly desired to obtain a fair reciprocal trade arrangement with the United States. Every Government that has held office in the Dominion proclaimed its desire for reciprocity and represented that it used its utmost efforts to obtain a satisfactory trade arrangement with the United States. Every public man of first rank, whether Liberal or Conservative, down to a very recent date proclaimed himself an advocate of reciprocity. Sir John Macdonald throughout his whole public life was an earnest advocate of reciprocity. In the last Speech from the Throne prepared by him, but a few weeks before his death, he announced the intention of his Government to send delegates to Washington to endeavour to obtain a reciprocity treaty. The Liberal party, which had, in its great convention of 1893, placed on record its desire for a more liberal tariff policy, and particularly for more extended trade with Great Britain and the United States, on coming into office in 1896 followed in the footsteps of its predecessors in seeking reciprocity.