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**THE AMERICAN TARIFF BILL.** THE tariff debate in the United States Senate, like tariff debates everywhere and always, has been characterized by a lack of national spirit. Appeals to national prejudice have, of course, not been wanting, but the prevailing influence has been as usual identified with local or class interests. If there is one industry, with regard to which every American not directly connected with the trade ought to be able to take a broad national view, it is surely the lumber business. The United States forests are all but exhausted and the demands of the American people for the products of the forest are greater than ever, and will tend to increase. Yet the dominating influence in Congress in dealing with the lumber duties is that of the American lumberman. Some of the wise men of Washington rose a little beyond this level, but not very far. They were under the impression that discrimination for or against Canadian lumber might be used to whip Canada into commercial subjection to the United States. That idea may as well be dismissed for ever. Our own lumbermen have some influence at Ottawa but they do not govern the Dominion; and the principle of reciprocity with the United States has little charm for Canadians to-day.

## MISCONCEPTION WITH REGARD TO CANADA.

THERE was a time when reciprocity — even unrestricted reciprocity — had a dangerous fascination for many of our people. We have to thank the persistent hostility of our nearest neighbours, their steadfast determination to whip us into political subjection by taking advantage of our commercial extremity, for teaching us a much needed and much appreciated lesson in national independence.

The misconception which prevails in the United States with regard to Canadian public opinion on this subject is almost pathetic. Even so wise a paper as the New York Evening Post said recently:

"Politicians at Ottawa had expected that if any concessions were made to Canada, they would be conditioned on granting to the United States the same tariff concessions as Canada makes to England. They have depended upon a demand like this as a ground for refusing any proposals of the kind. This ground is now cut from under them by the provision in the Payne bill that no British colony shall be denied the minimum rates, because of any preference it may make in its tariff to England or to any of its sister colonies."

## POWER OF THE "MAN WITH THE AXE."

AS passed by the Senate Finance Committee, the United States tariff bill provided for maximum schedule rates, 25 per cent. higher than the ordinary duties, upon imports from countries which discriminate against the United States, and gave the President power to apply the minimum rates to imports from countries giving the United States most favoured nation treatment. It was also provided that the minimum rates should not apply to any country imposing export duties on articles sent to the United States. That this provision could cause any embarrassment to the Ottawa Government would scarcely occur to anybody in Canada. So far as the export lumber duties are concerned, Sir Wilfrid certainly need feel no embarrassment, seeing that they are imposed by provincial governments. The influence, however, of the American lumberman, the man with the axe, has been powerful enough to kill free lumber and to save any Canadian statesman from embarrassment in any degree. The lesson our neighbours have to learn is that Canada is in a position to dictate absolutely the terms upon which it will supply the United States or any other country with lumber. We have the greatest timber resources in the world, it will be a sinful extravagance if we allow our own people to waste them; it will be a folly and the crime of crimes if we allow foreigners to do so for their own benefit.