AMERICANS ARE WORKING FOR FREE TRADE

With Canada as Soon as Possible — North and South Trade Is Primary Object.

The United States not only desires free trade with Canada at the earliest possible moment, but by its famous diplomacy will compel Canada to abolish its tariff barriers. By ratifying the proposed reciprocity agreement, the Dominion will present the United States with ground for a substantial step in its march on Canada. The neighboring republic has grown under the policy of protection. The Republican party, with a Republican president, has supported that policy. Yet now we are confronted with the spectacle of a protected country willing to abandon its principles so far as Canada is concerned. Mr. R. F. Broussard, a minority member of the United States Ways and Means Committee, has described the reciprocity bill as not only un-Republican, but also un-Democratic and absolutely un-American. President Taft instructed his Secretary of State to offer free trade to Canada. This fortunately was refused by the Canadian Ministers, who, however, in formulating the present agreement have paved the way well for the ultimate desire of the United States. The abandonment of the republic's protective principles in respect to Canada is the best possible demonstration of their appreciation of Canada's prospects and possibilities. By the obtention of free trade within ten years, they figure that they can rapidly assume control of our markets. They recognize the disparity in the extent of general development and population. Canada is showing a blind eye to that disparity.

The chief opposition to the Canadian reciprocity bill in the United States is that it does not go far enough. The legislation as re-introduced in the United States House has a new clause authorizing the president to continue negotiations for reciprocity with Canada on articles not covered by the pending agreement and a bill to put on the free list about one hundred articles now dutiable under the general tariff. Through the reciprocity agreement, the Americans hope to unite the wheat of the two countries, making one crop—that of North America. The American grain growers desire to combine prices so that Europe will get Canadian and American wheat when the American is ready to sell. With the entire remission of duty on farm produce, the Americans expect their market in Canada for those products to be vastly increased—we are quoting an American writer. Live stock will go on the free list, and the Canadian market for them is to be as untrammelled as the market in any part of the United States. The reductions offered by Canada on meats are so sweeping that there will be an immense increase in those exports from the United States to Canada. A big market will be opened in Western Canada for Minnesota, Dakota and other State dairy products. This will take the business away from Ontario, prevent it being fostered in Western Canada, and give it to the United States. The Americans recognize that their imports of Canadian agricultural products are comparatively so small as to be lost in the immense volume of their domestic products. They do not anticipate that the situation will be greatly changed if the proposed agreement be made law. "The agreement, if adopted," says an American, "means a larger field for our merchants and manufacturers, more welcome prosperity for our cities, and, therefore, better home markets for our farmers." The Americans, therefore, have every good reason to effect at the earliest date the commercial annexation of Canada.

A bill has been introduced at Washington which will place one hundred articles on the free list. That is to say, the American barriers will be lowered to the Canadian producer. That is as it should be, although if the United States were to abolish their protective tariff against Canada altogether, it would not benefit the Dominion to any great extent. The Americans recognize that fact: hence their desire for Canada to abolish its protective barriers. Unless the Canadian reciprocity agreement is defeated in Canada, the Americans will have won a signal victory in their fight to control our markets.

CANADIAN RECIPROCITY BILL.

In the American House—"Uncle" Joe Cannon Thunders Opposition.

(Special correspondence to The Monetary Times).

Washington, D.C., April 20th.

The reciprocity bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives. It follows the lines of the McCall bill passed last session with the addition of a clause authorizing the President to continue negotiations for reciprocity with Canada on articles not covered by the pending agreement and a bill to put on the free list about one hundred articles now dutiable under the general tariff. The following are the leading items proposed for the free list, the duties as they stand under the Payne-Aldrich tariff law being noted:—

Rye flour, ½ cent per pound.
Oatmeal and rolled oats, 1 cent per pound.
Biscuits, bread, wafers, etc., not sweetened, 20 per cent. ad val.
Timber, hewn, sided or squared, and round timber, ½ of one per cent. per cubic foot.
Shingles, 50 cents per 1,000.
Lathes, 20 cents per 1,000 pieces.
Sawed boards, planks and deals, 50 cents per 1,000 feet board measure.
Sewing machines, 30 per cent. ad val.
Salt in bulk, 7 cents per hundred pounds.
Salt in bags, sacks, or barrels, 11 cents per 100 pounds.
Plows and other agricultural implements, 15 per cent. ad val.
Bagging for cotton, 6-10 of 1 cent per square yard.
Burlap for covering agricultural implements, 7-8 of 1 cent per square yard.
Hoops, of band iron, for baling cotton, 3-10 of one cent per pound.
Leather, grain, buff and split, 7-12 per cent. ad val.
Leather, rough and sole, 5 per cent. ad val.
Boots and shoes, 10 per cent. ad val.
Harness, saddlery, etc., 20 per cent. ad val.
Beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork, 1½ cents per pound.
Ham and bacon, 4 cents per pound.
Other meats, prepared and preserved, 25 per cent. ad val.
Lard, 1½ cents per pound.
Buckwheat flour, 25 per cent. ad val.
Cornmeal, 40 cents per 100 pounds.
Wheat flour, 25 per cent. ad val.
Barb Fence Wire, 13¼ cents per pound.

Will Print Their Speeches.

Despite the objection of certain Representatives to the publication in the Congressional record of speeches not actually delivered on the floor of the House, Representative Underwood, of Alabama, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, obtained unanimous consent for all members to print their speeches in the record on the subject of reciprocity for five days.

Representative Lenroot, of Wisconsin, made one of the most spirited speeches of the week. He contended that if no difference existed in the cost of producing agricultural products between the United States and Canada, and free trade was warranted, then there should be free trade also in manufactured goods. He maintained that there is a difference in the cost of production of farm products. The cost of the Canadian farmer's land, he said, was from one-third to one-half less, while his production per acre was from fifteen to forty per cent. higher. The position of the American farmer would be made still worse by the advantage gained by the manufacturer through the free admission of wheat, live animals, and a lot of other things which were his raw materials, thus greatly increasing the protection he enjoys.