OPPOSITION TO RECIPROCITY.

Reasons Why the Proposed Pact Should Not Be Ratified—Speech of Mr. R. L. Borden.

Mr. R. L. Borden delivered a long address at Winnipeg this week in opposition to the proposed reciprocity agreement. "It is contended," he said, "that the agreement opens wider markets for Canadian produce. Reciprocal trade preferences within the Empire would give us the advantage of trade with countries which require our products and which can offer us commodities that this country does not produce. But the proposals of the Government are for reciprocal trade with a country which produces a surplus of nearly every commodity that we produce; a country that competes with us in the markets of the world in animal, agricultural and food products. The United States has a vast area of tillable land still to be brought under cultivation.

"They can raise enough food products to support a population of four hundred millions, at the lowest estimate. Reputable authorities place the number at eight hundred to one thousand millions. It is a country in which, according to the statistical information furnished by the United States Board of Tariff Experts, prices of nearly all agricultural and food products are lower than in Canada.

An Inopportune Time.

"It would have been impossible to select a more inopportune time for such proposals than that which the Government chose. The Democratic party had come into power and commanded a large majority in the United States House of Representatives. The President is a Republican, and there is a small Republican majority in the Senate. The Government was warned last autumn that the duties would be lowered by the United States on many articles without any concessions by Canada. Subsequent events confirmed the truth of that prophecy. On the 14th day of February last, Hon. Champ Clark, leader of the Democratic party, announced an all around reduction in the tariff, and this has been followed by a bill for that purpose which has been passed by the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. If our Government had been content to abide by the policy of the last thirty years, every supposed advantage of this treaty would have come to us without concession.

Exports of Products in Lowest Form.

"We oppose this treaty because it encourages the export of agricultural and animal products in their lowest and least finished form, with the result that the finishing process will be performed in the United States and not by Canadian labor. Our cream will be converted into butter or cheese, our wheat into flour, not by Canadian labor, but by United States labor. The finished product will be an American product and not a Canadian product. The by-products of our grain will go to feed American cattle, to increase the fertility of American lands and to add to the advantage of the American animal industry.

Would Encourage Trusts.

"We are opposed to this treaty because it will increase the opportunities and powers of the United States trusts in Canada. Already Australia and New Zealand have taken steps to resist those trusts and prevent their operations. The Australian Government has declared its determination to take immediate and drastic action in order to discourage and, if necessary, prevent the operation of the American meat trust in Australia. That trust is armed with such power that it dictates to the farmer, on the one hand, and to the consumer on the other. It practically controls, not only the meat trade of the United States, but of other countries, and especially of Argentine.

Twelve Favored Nations.

"We are opposed to this agreement for the further reason that we are paying a price which the United States are not prepared to pay. That price is the admission to our markets of the products of the Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Bolivia, Columbia, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela, as well as all the British possessions. Many of these countries are large exporters of agricultural and animal products. Under this agreement these countries are entitled to and will receive from Canada the same tariff concessions which Canada concedes to the United States. Argentina, Denmark and Australia thus become competitors of Canada without giving us any concession or advantage in return. If this agreement goes into effect, beef and mutton from Argentina can be laid down in the ports of Canada at a price which will destroy the animal industry of Canada. Labor in Argentina costs about one-third of what is ordinarily paid in Canada. The markets of the United States will not be open to the same competition.

United States Answers "None."

"What would the answer be if the case were put in another way? Let us suppose that Canada should offer to the United States free trade in certain agricultural products and reduced duties upon other agricultural products, on condition that the United States should make the same concessions to Canada. Let us suppose that the United States made answer: We will agree to your proposal provided you will extend the same concessions to the Argentine Republic, Austria-Hungary, Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela and to all the British possessions. Canada enquires: What concessions will we receive from these countries in return? The United States answers: None. Canada enquires further: Do you propose to make the same concessions to the countries you have named? To this would come the immediate answer: No, the concessions to these countries will be made by Canada alone. Would Canada under these conditions joyously declare that she accepted the proposal at once. Let it be distinctly understood that the effect of the present agreement is exactly the same as if the hypothetical proposal above outlined had been made and accepted. Our home market will be opened not only to the producers of the United States, but also to those of the twelve countries above mentioned, who will give us no corresponding or equivalent concession. It will also be opened to Australia, New Zealand and other British possessions, which otherwise might have been willing to grant reciprocal advantages.

Value of Home Markets.

"It is sometimes the fashion to sneer at the home market. Last year the United States produced twenty thousand million dollars worth of manufactured products and nine thousand million dollars worth of animal and agricultural products. Not more than five per cent. of this vast production was exported; the home market consumed the balance. Last year the total value of wheat, oats and barley produced in Canada, amounted to two hundred and eighty-nine million dollars. Of this amount only $55,000,000 was exported. Our total field crops amounted to $533,000,000. We exported in a manufactured condition (flour, oatmeal, etc.) a little over $20,000,000 and in an unmanufactured condition $70,350,000, or a total of $90,500,000. We imported a little over $12,500,000 of unmanufactured field products. Deducting the latter amount from $70,350,000, we find that our own Canadian market absorbed the total value of our manufactured field products except $58,000,000, which is less than eleven per cent. of the total production. Is it desirable to open up such a market to the competition of the world without any equivalent concession or advantage."

GRAND TRUNK WILL OBTAIN RUNNING RIGHTS

Over the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railroad —A Valuable Link.

The Grand Trunk Railway will shortly be granted running rights over the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway tracks. This is an important development and a fact which The Monetary Times is able to chronicle on the best authority. Negotiations between the two parties have been in progress for a considerable time, representatives of the Ontario Government and its railway, Mr. Charles M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk, and his officials having conferred on several occasions.

The Grand Trunk will be given rights over the spur track from Nipissing Junction to the Temiskaming Railway main line at North Bay. The company will thus be able to run its trains from Toronto through North Bay, touching all points along the Temiskaming road to Cochrane, the rapidly growing terminal of the Ontario Government's railway and a divisional point of the Grand Trunk Pacific. This must prove a valuable connection to the Grand Trunk, for the running rights over the government road will give them an opportunity to connect at Cochrane with the Grand Trunk Pacific when built. That line is already completed for 94 miles east of Cochrane and 130 miles west of the town.

Agreement to be Signed.

Details of the agreement between the Ontario Government and the Grand Trunk roads have been considered for some time past and it is understood that the agreement is practically completed and will shortly be signed by its two parties. Naturally it is formulated in such a way as to be mutually advantageous from all viewpoints. It is not beyond possibility that other roads may be given running rights similar to those about to be granted to the Grand Trunk.

The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway from North Bay to Cochrane has a mileage of 252 miles, with branch lines of 13 miles and yards and sidings of 75 miles. The distance from Toronto to Cochrane is 479 miles.

Port on Hudson Bay.

There is additional interest in the possibility of the Temiskaming road being extended from Cochrane to James Bay, a distance of 175 miles. Up to the present, the outlook for a harbor on James Bay is poor and the necessary steps may be taken to locate a suitable port somewhere on the Hudson Bay.

The officers of the Dubuc, Sask., Board of Trade, are Mr. John Enwood, president; Mr. J. F. Crosby, vice-president; Mr. T. A. B. Ferris, secretary-treasurer, and Messrs. Dr. W. C. Arnold, T. Brown and D. McIntyre, councillors. The board was reorganized recently.