



THE Canadian Courier THE NATIONAL WEEKLY



Vol. 10

Toronto, November 19, 1910

No. 24

UNCLE SAM AND US

By NORMAN PATTERSON

YOUR Uncle Sam is a good neighbour, and Canada knows it right well. The United States as a nation may be somewhat selfish and somewhat keen in International affairs, but the United States people are comfortable neighbours. The original owners of California and Texas, if they were alive, might not echo this sentiment, but they are dead and the boundaries of the new-world countries are now better defined. Certainly the United States does not bother Canada, except through the medium of her commercial travellers. Nobody has ever accused Washington of sending emissaries to Ottawa to influence legislators in an underhand way, nor of sending special advocates through the country to affect Canadian sentiment in favour of any United States project. Indeed, if Canada has any complaint to make it is that the United States people have paid too little attention to this country. They have been interested in the Atlantic Fisheries, in the northern Pacific seal preserves, and in the Alaska Boundary, but because these disputes were mainly handled from London, the common people in this country have not been greatly affected by the discussions.

Similarly, Canada has not been paying a great deal of attention to the United States. Since the Reciprocity Treaty fell under the displeasure of the United States senate in 1865, Canada has not had much reason to interest itself in United States affairs. From time to time it was necessary to take notice that your Uncle Sam had put another layer of cut stone along the top of the tariff wall which prevents Canadian goods from entering his country. But whether it was the Wilson Bill, McKinley Bill, Dingley Bill or Aldrich-Payne Bill; all coons looked alike to Canada. For forty years that wall has been steadily growing higher, and the story that is told continually for forty years becomes somewhat familiar and uninteresting. Canada buys large quantities of United States wares and her purchases from the Republic now amount to a very respectable annual sum. She always sold some goods to the United States, but your Uncle Sam has had a strong belief in the two-for-one principle.

Considering this situation one may readily understand the interest which the people of Canada took in last week's elections in the land of the Free, though sometimes their interesting elections are not startling in their effect upon national policy. That election last week was different. The United States people themselves admit that there has been nothing like it since 1882, and that is some time ago. Canada was interested because she feared President Roosevelt. He plays such a large part in the life of the Anglo-Saxon races that Canada has been wondering just what was going to happen when Teddy became the uncrowned Caesar of the land where all men are free and equal. They were greatly interested in the results in New York State. Strangely enough, when the news came that Teddy was beaten Canadians howled with joy. Just why this should be I do not know. Possibly it may have been that there was more joy over the success of the low tariff programme than over the defeat of the Colonel of the Rough Riders. However, each of us will have his own opinion on this point.

When those remarkable elections occurred last week there were three United States officials at Ottawa arranging the preliminaries for that new reciprocity treaty which has been talked of for forty years. And they were getting along splendidly. Everybody in Ottawa was treating them kindly, courteously and even generously. It appears that had

they asked for Rideau Hall or a slice of Parliament Hill to take back to Washington as a souvenir, they would have received it. Those were the days before Tuesday of last week. After Tuesday of last week the atmosphere in Ottawa became much cooler. The Canadians who were doing the entertaining hid their thermometers so that their United States guests would not see the drop in the mercury. Nevertheless, the frigidity must have been quite noticeable to the three visitors. It did not take long for both sides to discover that further negotiations at the present moment were inadvisable.

THE situation then is that the United States has for the first time in many, many years decided that it would like to have a reciprocity treaty with Canada. In spite of some protests on the part of ultra-imperialists, the Canadian Government treated the United States' desires with extreme friendliness and courtesy. The treatment of each other by both sets of officials must necessarily increase the friendly feeling between the two countries, even if it does not result in a reciprocity treaty. Had the United States elections not gone the way they did last Tuesday, there might have been a narrow reciprocity treaty. In spite, however, of the present suspension of the negotiations I would venture to predict that a broader measure of reciprocity will result. Both countries are intensely commercial and both would be immensely benefited by a reciprocity arrangement which would preserve the national industries, the national dignity and the national ambitions of both. This being the case, and men being as reasonable as they are, there seems no reason why the next twelve months should not see a reciprocity treaty and a growing interest by the one country in the other. The United States is big enough to be generous; Canada is not small enough to be snappy. Whether or not a real treaty is negotiated, we may fairly assume that the friendly feelings of the one country for the other will develop immensely from this time forward, until some day perhaps the diplomats and official corps of the two countries shall be working together with common objects and common aims. This is true to-day of many of the organisations of both countries, religious, social, and industrial. Why should the same conditions not obtain in political circles?

There is one point which is worthy of some consideration, and which may not yet have occurred to all observers. The new House of Representatives, which will not meet until some time next year, will be Democratic and in favour of tariff-revision-downwards. If the movement for better trade relations between the two countries can be dovetailed into the first Democratic tariff bill, there would certainly be

something doing. Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., thinks a treaty inadvisable. He is in favour of a mutual reduction of duties on certain classes of articles, not necessarily the same in both countries. If this idea could be worked out at the next tariff discussion in Congress, something important might be accomplished. Of course, if President Taft insists on a treaty, then a treaty it must be. But in any case, Canada's opportunity will be simultaneous with that first definite move on the part of the recently remodelled House of Representatives.

In an address on reciprocity in St. George's Hall, Toronto, in 1897, the Hon. G. W. Ross, gave five reasons why he was opposed to a treaty with the United States. Three of these would be removed, if it were a reciprocity arrangement instead of a treaty. These are (1) a reciprocity treaty may be used as an admission that the weaker nation is dependent upon the stronger for a market; (2) the repeal of a reciprocity treaty might be held by a stronger nation *interwoven* over the weaker; and (3) at best any market based upon a treaty is a temporary one. It would seem clear therefore that both governments should seriously consider if a reciprocal arrangement would not be more popular than a treaty. Certainly it would contain less dynamite.

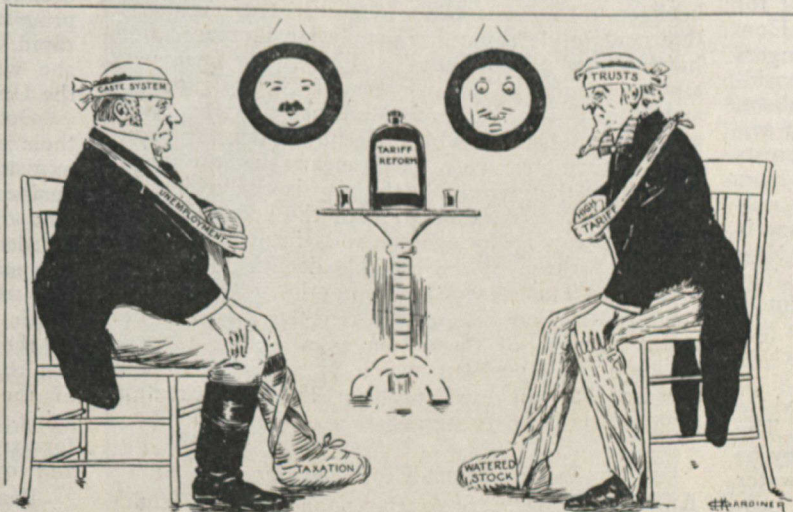
In passing it may be mentioned that the coal barons of Nova Scotia do not want reciprocity of any kind, degree or character. In a memorandum issued some time ago and submitted to the Nova Scotia Government, the nine big coal companies state: "The operators have made a careful study of the effect of any reciprocal arrangement in coal, and the result of their investigations and the knowledge gained by experience in the business convinces them that Reciprocity would be disastrous to the Coal Industry of the Province." That is flat, isn't it? And they seem to have good arguments behind them, although the arguments are not such as will appeal to the consumer of coal in Ontario or Manitoba. However, there you are.

The other day, the writer met two prominent Ontario farmers—importers and breeders of horses. He asked them what they thought of reciprocity, and they shook their heads decidedly. "Not in favour, eh?" said I. And then one of them frowned me into silence by declaring, "Not one farmer in ten in this Province is in favour of reciprocity." I whistled and ordered the cigars.

LET it not be considered that the writer of this article is wildly excited about this reciprocity question, or that he thinks Canadians generally are in that fervent condition. Canada doesn't *want* reciprocity. That phrase is not correct. Canada is willing to accept reciprocity in certain lines, if she can see mutual advantage in the arrangement. There would be some regrets, but no mourning bands, if reciprocity were to die a natural death now that Mr. Eugene N. Foss has become Governor of Massachusetts, with other subjects to talk about.

But even if he forgets us, we Canadians shall always remember the "Governor" as a man who fought for us in a hopeless battle—and won a governorship.

In 1874, Sir Edward Thornton and the Hon. George Brown negotiated a draft reciprocity treaty which the United States Senate refused to accept. Any person interested in the subject will find that draft treaty good reading. Its chief feature was that the duties on a selected list of articles were to be reduced one-third the first year, another third the second year, and wiped out the third. If there is to be a new treaty, that feature should be duplicated. When the Thousand-Farmers' Deputation reaches Ottawa in December it should have the history of that draft treaty in mind. The experiences and opinions of these two British diplomats would make an excellent basis for an argument, if argument there is to be.



Similar Disorders—Similar Medicine.