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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE WEIGHT OF ARGUMENT.—Although Sir Chas. Tupper has been prevented by illness from taking any actual part in the great Reciprocity debate, he has given no intimation of his dissent from the amendment to Sir Richard Cartwright's resolution, in which the Government declares against Reciprocity with the United States except upon the impossible terms of retaining "Protection" to Canadian manufactures. It is fair, therefore, to put the Minister of Finance forward as the representative of Restriction, as he is unquestionably the greatest figure in the Cabinet. At this writing the debate is still going on, and some able speakers are yet to be heard on both sides. It is not likely, however, that anything really new will be contributed to the discussion. The case has been ably argued *pro* and *con*, and may even now go to the jury. Let us sum up the chief points very briefly. The friends of Reciprocity have shown clearly (1) That, from whatever cause, Canada has suffered a serious loss of her population, and is now in a far from satisfactory position financially. (2) That these unfortunate facts cannot be accounted for on the ground of anything essentially wanting in the climate, soil, or situation of our country, or in the character of our people; but are the demonstrable effects of our fiscal policy. (3) That that policy (Protection) benefits the few at the expense of the many, and is in the last degree cruel and unjust to the great producing classes upon which the prosperity of the land chiefly depends. (4) That it is the first duty of Canadian statesmen to be loyal to Canada; that is, to the interests of the vast mass of our population. (5) That Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States would not only be a great boon to Canada materially, but would subserve the highest political interests of Great Britain, in helping to cement the

good feeling existing between the English-speaking nations; it would also, unquestionably, prove to be in the interests of British trade, by increasing the purchasing power of the people of both Canada and the United States, who want British goods. In reply to these and many other considerations which have been supported by facts, figures and authoritative documents, what have we had? (1) That our infant industries must be nourished. (2) That it would be disloyal for us to seek Unrestricted Reciprocity with a foreign country. (3) That we can't get it, anyway, so there is no use trying. (4) That if our population is diminishing it is not because of a market artificially restricted, but because the newly-arrived emigrants are driven away by alarmist speeches of the Opposition. (5) That the prosperity of the mass of the people depends on the prosperity of the factories, and not *vice versa*; therefore the interests of a few manufacturers are of more importance than those of many farmers, lumbermen, fishermen and cattle dealers. But let every one of our readers peruse the debate on both sides from beginning to end—it is well worth while to mark the utter weakness of the ablest men of the Government to meet the stubborn facts presented in favor of Continental Free Trade.

CONFLICTING CAPACITIES.—Sir John can no doubt sympathize with the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe*, who points out the inconvenience of being "a man of two capacities," when these are conflicting. His Lordship of the comic opera found himself in a delicate situation in a matter of the heart. Having fallen in love with a Ward in Chancery, it became necessary that, as a suitor, he should get the consent of the Lord Chancellor, and he felt a natural diffidence in approaching himself on the subject. The scene in the House at Ottawa the other day, when Sir John, as member for Kingston, presented a strong petition from the grocers of that city against the wholesale grocers' monopoly, of which Sir John is, by virtue of the tariff, the official protector, was almost as ludicrous and quite as embarrassing. It is not stated, however, that the Premier gave any token of appreciating the humor of the event.

THE "Third Party" was ushered into existence at Shaftesbury Hall on Wednesday of last week. The Provisional Committee of midwives saw fit to admit only those delegates who would sign their names to the platform of nine principles—the same not to be open to discussion for the present—and this gave rise to a meeting of Dissidents, at which a resolution condemning the course of the managers was passed. No doubt a satisfactory understanding will be arrived at in due course, but meantime the scoffers are enjoying their *bon mot* that the Prohibition Party was born twins.

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THERE are two or three planks Mr. GRIP would like to see added to the platform of the New Party when it comes to be thoroughly ventilated in the more or less remote future. One of these is Continental Free Trade. Restriction, repression, utter prohibition—this is sound policy toward one line of business—that of drink and drunkard-making. But every honest and legitimate industry should be given freedom and encouragement. If we cannot yet have free trade with the whole world—which will come with the advance of civilization—let us at least abolish the barbarism of a continental tariff, which is not merely silly but unchristian.

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AND, because it is the part of common sense and sound political economy to remove artificial barriers from the path of commerce, we go in for another plank, to wit: the abolition of taxation on individual industry. The present system of collecting taxes is unjust, cumbersome and expensive; in some of its departments it offers a premium on lying, and as a whole it is in the interests of monopoly. The new party should declare for local option in the matter of taxation, giving each municipality the right to say from what source it will collect its necessary revenue.