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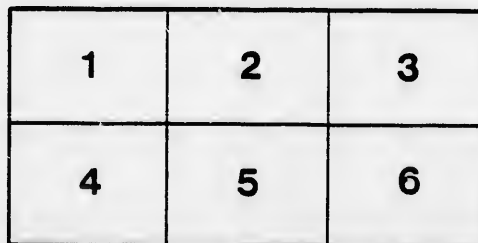
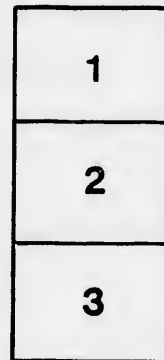
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*Stratford
Ont.*

THE FARMER'S POLITICS.

Reciprocity of Trade with the United States.

An issue of vast public importance is now presented to the electors of Canada. Between the two great political parties the dividing lines are distinctly drawn. During the Session of the Dominion Parliament, held in 1887, Sir Richard Cartwright in advocating the adoption of the policy of the Liberal party, moved the following resolution, setting forth in unmistakable terms, the necessity of enlarged trade relations with the United States:—

“That it is highly desirable that the largest possible freedom of commercial intercourse should obtain between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and that it is expedient that all articles manufactured in or the natural products of the said countries should be admitted free of duty into the ports of the other (articles subject to duty of excise or of internal revenue alone excepted); and it is expedient that the government of the Dominion should take steps at an early date to ascertain on what terms and conditions arrangements can be effected with the United States, for the purpose of securing full and unrestricted reciprocity of trade therewith.”

Sir Richard Cartwright proceeded to show, that there had been for many years an alarming exodus of Canadians to the United States—that the total volume of exports and imports had decreased from \$217,000,000 in 1873, to \$202,000,000 in 1886—that \$80,000,000 (or nearly one-half, and that the most profitable half) was with the United States, notwithstanding the trade barriers between the two countries,—that the policy proposed in this resolution would benefit nineteen-twentieths of the population of Canada, by allowing them to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets—and thus the monstrous burdens now falling on the farmers, laborers, artisans, mechanics, fishermen, miners, lumberman, and the great producing classes in the community would be redressed.

Hon. George Foster, the present Finance Minister, enunciated the Government Policy in the following amendment:—

“That Canada in the future, as in the past, is desirous of cultivating and extending trade relations with the United States, in so far as they may not conflict with the policy of fostering the various industries and interests of the Dominion, which was adopted in 1879, and which has since received, in so marked a manner, the sanction and approval of the people.”

In opposing the proposition for enlarged trade relations, he alleged that the adoption of such a policy would jeopardise the National Policy and the manufacturers who had been protected since 1879, and would not benefit the farmers.

The government amendment was carried by a vote of 124 yeas, to 67 nays—thus defeating Sir Richard Cartwright's proposition for Reciprocity.

During the Sessions of 1889 and 1890 respectively, Sir Richard Cartwright proposed a similar resolution, and upon each occasion the Government called upon their supporters to mark their disapproval of the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity by recording their votes against the resolution. In 1890 Hon. Mr. Colby, President of the Council, enunciated the policy of the Government in significant language, as may be seen by the following extract from the official (*Hansard*) report of the Debate:—

“HON. MR. MILLS, Bothwell, (addressing Mr. Colby).—Then the hon. gentleman is opposed to trade in natural products?”

"Hon. Mr. Colby.—Most decidedly, from the farmer's standpoint. I know whereof I speak. The hon. gentleman has devoted many years to the study of philosophy; I have devoted many years to the study of agriculture, and when I first came to this House I was one of the largest agriculturists in my county. For many years I had studied agricultural problems from a farmer's standpoint, and I am sure the farmers of this country will endorse me when I say that free trade between Canada and the United States in all agricultural products would be the worst possible thing that could happen to the Farmers of Canada."

Would Reciprocity Benefit the Farmers?

Every unprejudiced observer, candid in expressing an opinion, cannot but answer that enquiry in the affirmative. If evidence is wanted to prove the beneficial results under the Reciprocity Treaty, extending from 1854 to 1856, the following utterances furnish all that can be required:—

Sir John A. Macdonald, when speaking at Hamilton in 1860, said,—

"One great cause of the prosperity of the farmers in Upper Canada is the Reciprocity Treaty, and the consequent interchange of agricultural commodities and raw materials. He has found a market where there was none at all before."

Sir John A. Macdonald, in a speech at Caledonia, the same year said,—

"If there is one measure of late date which benefits the country more than another, it is the Reciprocity Treaty, negotiated indeed by the Hinck's Government, but perfected under Sir Allan's. You know that whereas wheat used to pay twenty cents a bushel to enter the frontiers of the United States, it now goes in free, and every farmer here is twenty cents a bushel richer for that measure. Instead of being kept out of the United States, and being obliged to go to Montreal to sell his produce, he has now the choice of two markets; he has two strings to his bow; no collector of Customs stands between him and the New England manufacturer, or between him and the British consumer."

Reasons for Reciprocity.

FREE MARKETS WANTED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The United States offers a natural market for the great bulk of the fruit of the labor of the agriculturists of Canada. Examine carefully the following table which shows the quantity of certain articles exported in 1889 from Canada to the United States, and the amount of duties paid at the American Custom Houses.

	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Am't paid.
Barley.....	9,934,500 bushels,	10 cts.	\$ 993,450
Beans.....	302,000 "	10 cts.	30,200
Pease.....	332,000 "	20 cts.	66,400
Potatoes....	717,660 "	15 cts.	107,649
Hay.....	82,300 tons,	\$2	164,600
Horses.....	\$2,113,780	20 p. c.	422,275
Cattle.....	\$488,260	20 p. c.	97,652
Sheep.....	\$918,330	20 p. c.	183,666
Poultry.....	\$51,730	20 p. c.	10,346
Eggs.....	14,011,000 doz.,	Free

From Bad to Worse.

While face to face with the above schedule of duties the position of the Canadian farmer was discouraging, but with the late changes in the United States Tariff, under the operation of the McKinley Bill, his condition is seriously imperilled. The harvest was not a bountiful one in 1889, yet if the Canadian farmer sends his products in 1891 to the United States—the natural market—to the same extent as in 1889, he will be taxed in the following manner:—

	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	To be paid.
Barley.....	9,934,500 bushels,	30 cts. bush.....	\$2,980,350
Beans.....	302,000 "	40 cts. "	120,800
Pease.....	332,000 "	40 cts. "	132,800
Potatoes	717,660 "	25 cts. "	179,415
Hay	82,300 tons,	\$4 ton	329,200
Horses	\$2,113,780	{ \$30 each if valued at less than \$150..... }	618,310
Cattle.....	\$488,260	\$10 each if more than one year old.	373,600
Sheep	\$918,330	{ \$1.50 each if one year old.. 75 cts. if less than year old.. }	346,235
Poultry, dressed.	\$51,732	5 cts. per lb	38,740
Eggs.....	14,011,000 doz.,	5 cts. dozen.....	700,550

Total amount that will be taken from the pockets
of the Canadian Farmers in one year..... \$5,820,000

If the Farmers desire the removal of the enormous Barriers that have been placed between them and their natural market by the above schedule of duties, they have the Remedy in their Own Hands—by Supporting the Liberal Party the Leaders of which have shown their Earnestness in advocating a broad measure of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States, the desired change can be effected.

Who Pays the Duty ?

The question of who pays the duty on these products when exported from Canada to the United States, has been answered by notable Canadian Statesmen. Sir John Macdonald said (See House of Commons Debates, 1878, page 861):—

"I find that the farmers of West Canada and East Canada could not understand there was anything in their barley, for instance, being obliged to pay a duty of 15 per cent, upon going into the United States, whereas the produce of the American farmers was allowed to be brought into this country free. It is said the consumer pays the duty; and that the farmer does not suffer anything. That is the statement, but, when I put a simple case, which I have done frequently, I can get no answer. Suppose a man has 100 acres on the Canadian side of the line and 100 acres on the American side of the line. Suppose he grows 1,000 bushels of barley on each of his farms. He takes his 1,000 American bushels to the American market and gets one dollar a bushel for it. He takes his 1,000 bushels of Canadian barley to the American market and gets but 85c. per bushel, because he has to pay 15 per cent. for taking it across that imaginary line. How can it, in this case, be said that the consumer pays the duty? It comes out of the pockets of the Canadian farmers."

Sir David Macpherson announced his views on that subject at Walkerton, in 1878, in the following language:—

"If we produce that which our neighbors have not, and which they must buy from us, we can put our own price upon it, and leave them to pay the duty imposed by their government. In that case the consumer unquestionably pays the duty. But our neighbors and ourselves produce similar commodities, and our producers have to compete with their producers. On their way to the American market our producers have to pass through the American custom house and pay the American duty, and when they reach the market they can obtain no more for their commodities than the American producer who pays no duty. . . . Suppose a farmer in this country takes five horses valued at \$100 each to Detroit to sell. The duty on horses in the United States is 20 per cent, which the Canadian farmer must pay before he can enter the Detroit market. That is he must pay \$20 for each horse, and on his five horses \$100, or the value of one horse at the United States custom house before he can take them to the market. Then he will get no more than a Michigan farmer will get for five equally good horses. Suppose that he and a Michigan farmer each sell five horses—each gets \$500 for his horses. The American takes his \$500 home in his pocket; while the Canadian takes home only \$400."

It therefore follows that all the articles enumerated in the foregoing tables would have had an additional market value in Canada equal to the amount of the United States duties, if the American market was free to the Canadian producers, and that the value of the articles exported would not only be greater but the increase would extend to all of a similar character produced in this country.

How will the Farmers of ~~Waterloo~~ be affected by the recent changes in the United States' Tariff? If there could be freedom of trade with the United States the farmers would be able to receive for their produce an increase in value equal to the amount of the duty. The returns of the Bureau of Statistics show the following quantities to be the average annual production in the County of ~~Waterloo~~

535,000	Barley, 465,000 bushels, would be increased in value by amount of duty, 30 cents per bushel.....	\$100,500
255,000	Peas, 310,000 bushels, by 40 cents per bushel.....	121,000
100,000-	Hay, 70,000 tons, by \$4 per ton.....	280,000
400,000-	Potatoes, 300,000 bushels, by 25 cents per bushel.....	95,000
	Upon barley, peas, hay and potatoes alone, the farmers here would secure an increase in value in one year of the enormous sum of.....	\$696,500
	The value of live stock in Waterloo is. \$2,200,000	375,000
	A free market to the United States would increase the value of horses, cattle and sheep, at least 30 per cent., or a total increase of	\$600,000 1,112,000-
	The value of farm property in this county is \$22,000,000	35,000,000.
	A free market to the United States would vastly increase the value of farm products, and farm property would rise in value at least 25 per cent., or a total increased value in Waterloo of	\$5,750,000 8,750,000-

To the individual farmer, Reciprocity would give thirty cents additional value on every bushel of barley—forty cents on every bushel of peas—twenty-five cents on every bushel of potatoes—\$4 a ton on hay—\$30 on every horse worth less than \$150—\$10 on every head of cattle more than a year old—\$1.50 on every sheep a year old—seventy-five cents on every lamb—and a similar increase upon every character of farm produce.

To the Farmers of ~~Waterloo~~. *Perth*

Farmers! now is the time to advance your own interests. Manufacturers of certain articles have effected huge combinations to enrich themselves at your expense. Declare by your ballots at the coming Dominion election in favor of more extended trade relations with the natural markets of Canada.

Your vote now can bring about the desired change in the fiscal policy of the Dominion. By supporting the platform and candidate of the Liberal party enlarged trade relations with the United States—which is the natural market for your produce—will be assured.

The farmers must remember that Reciprocity in farm products alone cannot be secured. The Canadian markets must also be free to certain lines of American manufactured articles. The farmers would then benefit by being able to purchase their supplies without being subject to the demands of the monopolists and combinations that now surround the Canadian trade. The great consuming population of Canada, therefore, have a common interest in the success of the movement. By uniting their forces they can secure this boon. They must make their voices heard through the ballot box, and the present is time to speak.

The people have an opportunity now of declaring whether they favor the continuance of a policy under which the consuming population has not prospered since 1879; or whether they are anxious that the trade relations should be extended and thus secure the return of the enormous advantages that accrued to the people

