

## "RECIPROCITY WAS GOOD ECONOMICALLY IN SEPTEMBER 1911; IT IS GOOD ECONOMICALLY TO-DAY AND IT WILL BE GOOD ECONOMICALLY ALWAYS"

### Wider Markets Favored All Around--Conclusion of Mr. Carvell's Masterly Speech in Reply to Finance Minister's Boast

(Continued from last week.) There is another branch of the Speech from the Throne to which I wish to refer briefly, and I do so because of its introduction into this debate by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. I refer to the trade question. There is a paragraph in the Speech from the Throne which says the Government have attempted to increase our trade with the British West Indies, and I think British Guiana. I think I voice the sentiments of every Liberal in this House and in the country when I say we heartily concur in any attempt that may be made to increase our trade with the British West Indies or any portion of the British Empire. The only fault I find is that the Minister of Finance is blowing a good deal about what he has accomplished in this respect, and trying to convince the people of Canada that he is conferring on them a great benefit by making a trade agreement with a million or two of people who do not consume much, three-quarters of whom go practically half-naked for nearly nine months out of the twelve, people who do not buy clothing to any extent, because the climate does not require them to use much clothing, people who do not consume our food-stuffs, because they produce their own food-stuffs, a country with which last year our total trade amounted to only about four million dollars. Perhaps I am wrong in that, but that is my recollection.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): I think my hon. friend is wrong. Speaking from memory, I think there is a trade of about fifteen million dollars a year between Canada and the West Indies.

Mr. CARVELL: Oh, no, not the British West Indies. That includes

all the West Indies, and Cuba as well.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): My memory is that it includes just these three colonies with which we have entered into a trade arrangement. I think the hon. gentleman will find that there is a very substantial trade between these colonies and Canada.

Mr. CARVELL: At all events the matter is not worth talking about, when you think of the total trade of Canada. Whether it is four millions or fifteen millions, it is only a bagatelle. However, I wish the Government well in so far as they have gone, in this direction. These gentlemen tell us also that they will negotiate a treaty with Australia, and I sincerely hope they may succeed in that. We must remember that Australia is producing largely the same products as we produce, and exporting to the same markets. However, that may be, if the Government can increase the trade between Canada and Australia and New Zealand, I trust they will succeed. In that statement, I believe I am again voicing the sentiments of every hon. gentleman on this side of the House. I have here a very significant statement in the last Weekly Report issued by the Trade and Commerce Department, at page 2138, which says:

#### Exportation of Butter.

The export of butter to Canada continues on a large scale. The 'Makura', sailing on October 25 takes approximately 10,000 boxes, and notice has been given by the Union Company that space has been reserved for upwards of 125,000 boxes for this season. It is interesting also to note that this office is constantly in receipt of communications from places as far east as Toronto asking for the name of butter shippers.

There is now a preferential trade to some extent with Australia and New Zealand, and I hope my hon. friends opposite may be able to go further, because when butter reaches the enormous price we are paying for it to-day—thirty-five cents a pound, I think, to the retailer in the large cities—

An hon. MEMBER: Forty cents.

Mr. CARVELL: Forty cents a pound, perhaps, when butter reaches that price, then all that the Canadian producer needs in the way of protection is the cost of transportation from Australia and New Zealand to the centre of Canada. When the Australian and New Zealand producer of butter chooses to send his butter to Canada rather than to Great Britain, to which the freight charges are very much less than they are to Canada, depend upon it, the price of butter here is more than it ought to be, and the consuming people of Canada are entitled to some amelioration in their condition in respect to the high cost of living and the burdens under which they are groaning. Therefore, I say success to the Government in endeavouring to increase our trade with Australia and New Zealand. But what becomes of the argument of the Minister of Finance and his friends just one year ago, that if the reciprocity treaty with the United States would go into force, one of the great troubles would be that this country would be flooded with cheap butter from Australia and New Zealand? Is there a member in this House, Liberal or Conservative, representing an agricultural constituency, who did not have that flung in his teeth on every platform? The greatest cry I met was that if we ratified that agreement, we would allow these ar-

ticles to come in from Australia and New Zealand free of duty, and the Canadian farmer would be 'ruined'. Now with true Tory consistency hon. gentlemen opposite start out to negotiate a trade treaty with Australia, and my statement to them is that they can extend the trade of country just as freely as they like, and I will support them. The Minister of Finance interjected into this debate the question of reciprocity for what reason I do not know. It may have been that he thinks it is dead, and he wants to resurrect it. Well, if the reciprocity agreement, which means broader markets, less taxation and cheaper food for the toiling masses, and better markets for the producer—if that is what he wants to resurrect—

Mr. McCURDY: Is it dead?

Mr. CARVELL: If it is dead, as the hon. gentleman seems to think, then why does he want to resurrect it?

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? Did I not ask the right hon. the Leader of the Opposition and hon. gentlemen opposite what position they took now? For legislation here is all that is necessary to bring that agreement into effect.

Mr. CARVELL: If my hon. friend (Mr. White, Leeds) will have patience for about two minutes, he will have the views of one of the members of the Opposition on that subject. I think he interjected this subject into the debate for another reason. I think that in the halo of glory in which he lives, in holy Toronto, and surrounded as he is by his manufacturing magnates, his banking magnates, his commercial magnates, and his transportation magnates, he rather wants us to resurrect reciprocity, having the idea that it may be to his benefit. Now, let me tell him, that so far as this humble member of the Opposition is concerned, I intend to resurrect reciprocity, and to talk reciprocity every time I get a chance, in this House and out of it, just as long as there is any possibility, in my opinion, of obtaining it. Let me tell him that, from my standpoint and the standpoint of millions of people in Canada, reciprocity was good economically in January, 1911. It was good economically in September, 1911. It is good economically to-day, and will be good economically always. I want to



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tell him that he is living, I believe, in a fool's paradise. He cannot repeat, with all his money—

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): Whose money?

Mr. CARVELL: The manufacturers' money, and the transportation magnates' money, and the American money, and the British Unionists' money;—with it all, he cannot resurrect the cry which he raised against reciprocity a year ago. He cannot do what the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) charged the Leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with doing—he cannot again champion one policy in Quebec and another in Ontario. He will find he cannot again join together the Nationalists of Quebec and the Orangemen of Ontario. He and his friends are in power now, and must have some regard to consistency. He will find that he cannot crucify the Leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in Ontario because he is a Roman Catholic, and in Quebec because he is 'too British.' The Minister of Public Works talks about Liberals having one policy in one

part of the country and another in another part of the country, and brings here garbled reports from his Tory papers in Manitoba to show the appeals made to the French people in that province. And after all what would the evidence show? Some thing of which every Conservative member of this House was guilty in the last campaign, with this difference, only that what these members said was one hundred per cent worse than could be conceived by any Liberal editor. We want to resurrect reciprocity.

An hon. MEMBER: Do you?

Mr. CARVELL: Yes, we do. And we want to resurrect more than that; we want to resurrect the British preference. We want to resurrect any policy which means cheaper food for the labouring classes of Canada; we want to resurrect any policy that will afford us a chance to discuss whatever will make for better economic conditions and a reduction of the cost of living in this country. My hon. friend (Mr. White, Leeds) surrounded by his followers, intoxicated with his own importance, grandiloquently turned to his followers, and, waving his hand as if to say, 'Do not cheer me too lengthily' asked: What have we lost by the rejection of reciprocity? I will tell him a few things that we have lost, but if I were to talk, as the Minister of Public Works, said until Christmas, I could not tell you all that we have lost.

An hon. MEMBER: You lost power. Mr. CARVELL: Yes but we did not lose honour. We did not have to go down to Quebec and tell our people one story and to Ontario and tell our people there another. We do not have any faction fights in our party. But in the rejection of reciprocity we lost money and we lost it by the million. The people of this country will never know how many millions they lost. But I am going to tell you now a few millions were lost in the last year.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would be more the hon. gentleman (Mr. Carvell) in keeping with orderly debate, if would address the Chair.

Mr. CARVELL: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. I certainly supposed I had the right to address the Minister of Finance through you. But, of course, if you want me to repeat the words 'Mr. Speaker' in every sentence, I can do it. Now, Mr.

Speaker, we lost power, and we lost money by the million.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh. Mr. CARVELL: No, we did not lose honour, but we lost power. When the question was raised, the day before yesterday, as to what we had lost, somebody remarked, 'you lost what George Lane lost.' Mr. George Lane is a cattle dealer in western Canada who appeared before a committee of the Senate last year and swore that, in one year's transactions, because of the lack of reciprocity, he himself personally, lost between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The people of the great West lost millions of dollars last year by reason of the impossibility of marketing their wheat at any price, let alone the price they could have obtained had they been allowed access to the American market. During the last three months from the western part of the province of Ontario alone—and if my figures are wrong the Minister of Finance (Mr. White, Leeds) can correct me—there were exported to the United States between 200 and 300 carloads of cattle. These cattle must have been worth close to half a million dollars. And the farmers have been compelled to pay 2 1/4 per cent on these cattle in order to get them into the American market, and so on these shipments alone these farmers of Ontario have lost over \$100,000. From the province of Quebec and the Maritime provinces last year we exported hay of a total value of \$6,375,000, and of that amount we sent to the United States \$5,187,000 worth, upon which we paid the magnificent sum of \$3,672,000 as duties into the American treasury. A gentleman sitting in this House to-day tells me that he himself paid into the American treasury in duties on hay alone \$30,000 during the last fiscal year. A constituent of mine tells everywhere that during the last fiscal year he paid \$50,000 in duties on hay alone which money might as well have gone into the pockets of my constituents.

An hon. MEMBER: Who pays the duty?

Mr. CARVELL: In the case of hay, the Canadian producer every time. And, on that point I call to witness the members of this House from Quebec and New Brunswick who live along the border. They know that

(Continued on page fourteen)

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