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THE REVIEW

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VOL. 3.

RICHIBUCTO, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 1891.

NO. 15

THE OPPOSITION LEADER IN BOSTON

Speech of Hon. Wilfred Laurier on Reciprocity.

(From the Boston Herald.)

Hon. Wilfred Laurier, the guest of the evening, responded to the toast to Canada. He was enthusiastically received, the entire audience rising to cheer. He spoke as follows:

In the first place I must extend to you my most sincere thanks for the more than cordial reception which has greeted me from my countrymen on all sides. It is true I expected nothing less from those who are sitting at this board. They are born Canadians, and though, since they have become American citizens, they have sworn allegiance to the republic, I am quite satisfied that their new fellow-citizens will not think it incompatible with the duties of American citizenship that they should keep in their hearts an ever fresh and ever green memory of their native land, Canada, and I am sure I am voicing the wish of their hearts when I say that their chief hope and wish is that between the country of their birth and the country of their adoption there should be ever increasing peace, harmony and friendship.

Especially grateful am I on this occasion to see Canada honored as it is by the presence at this board of so many eminent sons of Massachusetts, and I cannot say how much I am gratified by the presence and the words of His Excellency Governor Russell, the present occupant of the gubernatorial chair of Massachusetts—an office made illustrious before him by so many eminent men who have made Massachusetts known throughout the world as the champion of civilization, freedom and liberty.

Mr. Laurier here recalled to the memory of his hearers those struggles between France and England on this continent which had ultimately given rise to the American republic and left a French colony which became the nucleus of the British possessions in America.

Canada, he went on to say, is still a colony, and it is the destiny of colonies to become independent nations. But how and when is Canada to become an independent nation? This is a problem that does not at this moment excite any concern among the people of Canada. The tie which binds a colony to the motherland always has deep hold upon that colony. But you remember the example of this great republic itself. There was a time when the colonies had no conception of severing their relations with the mother country, and it was only the tyranny of England which gradually forced them to throw off their allegiance to her.

England to-day has granted to Canada every right, principle and privilege which she once refused. In our own day has been realized the truth proclaimed by Charles James Fox in the last century that the only method of conserving a British colony is to give them power to govern themselves. So to-day the British government does not attempt to lay taxes on us or to force British goods into our ports. We are at this moment at liberty and we have the right to tax British goods and British wares. With pride I say it, though Canada is still a colony, Canada is free. The only tie that binds Canada to the motherland is Canada's own will.

But, as in the case of every dependency the dependence will not last. Canada and England have interests apart, and the day will come, and must come, when Canada and England will have to separate from each other. England has for the last 30 years treated us with justice and generosity, but whenever the time comes to part from her, we shall part in peace, harmony and friendship, just as a son leaves the house of a father to become the father of a family himself.

Though there is in Canada at this moment no desire for independence, the Liberal party believes that the time has come when the powers of self government that we have are not adequate to our present development. We believe that we should be endowed with another power—that we should have the power of making our own commercial treaties.

The reform which we have claimed for years past we have not yet succeeded in obtaining, but we see the day not very far distant when we shall succeed, and this will be one of the first reforms we shall demand from the British government and I am sure no opposition will come from that government, for we shall relieve the British government and the foreign office from a good deal of troublesome work it has to do on our behalf, especially with the government of the United States. We want to have the power of negotiating our own commercial treaties, because we believe that the trade of Canada compels

us to find markets abroad, and if you are willing to open to us your markets, we are quite willing also to open to you our markets for American products of all kinds, either natural or manufactured.

The policy which we have adopted and for which we are fighting at this moment, is to have with our neighbor, the United States, the freest and amplest communication. We produce of a certain thing more than we can consume, while of other things we do not produce enough; therefore we have to export and import.

Facts also show that the same economical evil from which Canada is now suffering is also affecting the United States, though not to the same extent nor to the same degree, obviously because of the larger development of the United States. It seems to me that the tendency of public opinion throughout the length and breadth of this land is toward the recognition of the fact that the market of the United States is no longer adequate to the production of the country, and that such production must seek a market abroad. Indeed the consensus of opinion seem so universal in this respect that, by a measure adopted in the last Congress, which made itself famous throughout the world, provision has been made to have reciprocity of trade with certain countries and with Spanish America.

Your population to-day is 60,000,000 of people, while our population is less than 5,000,000. We have immense resources in agriculture, in forests, in mines and in fisheries; some of these resources have hardly yet been developed, while some have never been touched at all, and already we produce more than we consume. Last year our minister of finance undertook a trip in order to establish reciprocal trade relations with the West Indies, the very country with which provision for reciprocity is made in the McKinley bill.

So to-day we see the two people who share this continent—the great nation and the great colony—have exactly the same economical motives. Both are seeking at this moment to establish trade relations with more distant lands, while each is alternately refusing to make the same offer to the other. There is a market for each in the country of the other, yet each keeps up the barrier, the taking down of which would let trade flow into the natural channel when the gates placed by the hand of man are suddenly removed.

The speaker next drew the attention of his hearers to the geographical causes of the unnatural state of things which he had described, in order to show that such barrier ought no longer to be maintained. Your rivers, said he, flow into our territory, and our rivers flow into your territory. The centres of production in the one country are so situated with regard to the centres of production in the other that the exchange of productions becomes unavoidable. You produce a great deal, but do you produce our barley, and you want it. We do not produce your corn, yet we want that. Our lumbermen want your pork. Your great cities want our fish, and your fishermen want our fishing facilities.

Well, this is the case at the present time and, notwithstanding all the impediments that have been placed on trade by the legislation of the United States and the legislation of Canada, the volume of trade last year between the two countries almost equalled \$100,000,000.

Those who in my country oppose a reciprocity tariff say that reciprocity would not be any advantage, because the productions of the two countries are the same. I may be told, also, that the reciprocity clauses of the McKinley tariff apply only to the sugar-producing countries.

I may be permitted to rejoin that those reciprocity clauses of the McKinley tariff have further object to get the market for American production in those countries. Can those American productions find a market in my country? I say unhesitatingly, yes. The figures of the present trade show it, and the reason is, that though the production of the two countries be largely the same, it is the geographical distribution of those productions that makes trade unavoidable.

Take the article of coal. We have coal pits in my country, but our coal pits are on the Atlantic coast and on the Pacific coast; we have none in the centre, and the great provinces of Ontario and Quebec are in the very centre of our country. On the Atlantic coast it would be an advantage to the manufacturers of Massachusetts to get their coal from Nova Scotia. The states of the Pacific coast must buy their coal from British Columbia. That is the reason we say that reciprocity would be beneficial to the two countries, even though the production be the same. But there is a more potent reason. Though trade be dependent on conditions it is men that make trade.

The people of the United States belong to the great commercial Anglo-Saxon race of the world, and the bulk of the population of Canada belong to the same race, and through that fact alone there is more to be gained by reciprocity between the United States and Canada than there would between the same number of men of a less energetic race.

Now when such advantages can be secured simply by extending trade across the border line, why should not the United States and Canada try to get reciprocal relations with more distant countries? When all conditions require it and show the advisability of having perfect freedom of trade between the two countries, what are the reasons to prevent Canada and the United States profiting in this way?

The reasons, in my humble opinion, are to be found in the feelings of jealousy and distrust which remain to us as a remnant of former feuds and former conditions. At one time the feeling of hostility between England and the United States was so far obliterated that a treaty of reciprocity was negotiated between the two countries, not for England herself, but for her American colonies. Canada including at that time the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces. This treaty was to last ten years. That it was eminently beneficial to Canada everyone in the Dominion, whatever his political persuasion, gladly acknowledges; that it was also beneficial to the United States, or to some portions of it, I firmly believe.

But at the expiration of ten years, in accordance with a provision in it, the treaty was terminated. Why was it terminated? The report made to Congress says the treaty was unfair and one-sided; that it allowed the people of Canada to sell to the United States what they produced, but that the people of the United States could not sell to the people of Canada what they produced—chiefly manufactured articles.

I am not here to look into this case, but I assume it to be true, and on behalf of the Liberal party of Canada I say this: That we do not want any one-sided arrangement, but an arrangement that will be beneficial all round. We are willing, therefore, whenever a new treaty is negotiated between the two nations, that it shall not apply to one class, but to all classes of goods, whether natural or manufactured.

The reasons given might have been good for setting the treaty aside, but the American authorities would not negotiate a new treaty. The reason was deeper than an economic reason—it was a political reason, or, perhaps, I should say, a social reason. The reason was the revival of the feeling of enmity that had existed before, which had subsided, by which was born again by the hostile attitude maintained by England and by Canada, I am sorry to say, toward this nation at the time when it was struggling for unity and for the abolition of slavery.

Let me say, in behalf of my own country, that in this conduct of England and Canada there was no actual design of hostility to the United States, but they were carried away by the feeling that then permeated the old nations of the civilized world, which expected and desired that the young democratic nation that had appeared in the West, claiming for man certain inalienable rights, should be wrecked and come to an end. But the problem solved for the United States has been solved not only for this country, but for all mankind at large, and chiefly by the work and example of that great man, President Lincoln. This example has been spreading, until to-day France is a republic, and England is now almost a democratic country.

It was only the privileged classes who were on the side of slavery; the down-trodden classes and the masses of the people all over Europe and in England were against slavery and with the North in the struggle. In my country, too, there was one champion of the Union, Hon. George Brown, then the leader of the Liberal party, while in the struggle itself, over 40,000 Canadians fought, bled, and sometimes died in order that the cause of liberty here should triumph.

I have told you in my country the Liberal party have made it an issue that we should have more extended trade relations with our neighbors to the south of us. We have been told sometimes that it was not judicious—that it was rash—to make a political issue of a question which would have to be solved partly by the American authorities. Notwithstanding the objection we are determined to make every effort to obtain complete reciprocity between the two nations believing and hoping that, whenever we come with such an offer it shall be received with the same spirit with which we approach the American authorities—that is to say, that, if we make a fair business proposal, it will be accepted for the advantage of all concerned.

We have made this a question of party. We have divided parties on the question. I do not expect, nor do I desire, that it should be made a party question in the United States. On account of the size of the United States, the question cannot have the same importance that it has for us.

I am a subject of the British crown, but whenever it comes that as a Canadian I have to choose between the interests of England and the interests of Canada, my whole heart is with my native land. It is manifest to me that the interests of my country are identical with the interests of the United States, and it is upon the broad basis of continental freedom of trade that I place this question before the people of this nation and ask their consideration of it. But if such a boon as freedom of trade were to be purchased by the slightest sacrifice of my nation's dignity, I would have none of it. I do not suppose that a great nation like the United States would be disposed to be arrogant and overbearing towards Canada, its weaker neighbor, approaching her with a due sense of her own dignity.

We are prepared, I repeat, to approach our American neighbors with fair offers of reciprocity, extending over all the old lines, for our products and their products, as soon as a Liberal administration has been placed at Ottawa. Some gentlemen say that reciprocity would be an obstacle to annexation, while others say that it will lead to annexation. Such arguments are unfair to the American and the Canadian people alike. The Canadians, though a small people have the sentiment of their own pride. We approach you on the economical basis, and, if we cannot discuss the question on an economical basis, I would say let us go no further, but part, each going his own way.

It seems childish to be prevented from taking a course which would be beneficial to both countries because of unforeseen results which might flow from it. It is not on political grounds that I ask the consideration of this proposition, but simply on the ground of mutual economy and advantage.

I understand very well that the interests of Canada cannot be decided by the force of Europe, but that it is to be decided on the continent of America.

The speaker here discussed at some length the project of imperial federation with England—a project which he rejected as impolitic, on the ground that it would make Canada a part in all the wars which Great Britain might wage in every part of the world. He also spoke of the proposal known as the Imperial Trade League—a league between England and her possessions whereby they might trade among themselves, to the exclusion of the rest of the world. This plan he described as absolutely absurd, urging that profit, and not allegiance, was the true basis of trade.

Mr. Laurier finally cited some lines from the poet Whittier, expressing the common sympathies of men of the Anglo-Saxon race all over the world, and brought his address to a close by looking forward to a time when the alliance which he now recommended between Canada and the United States would be the first link of a chain to which link after link would be added until the chain would encircle the whole earth.

Queer Superscriptions.

The Washington Post prints an account of a collection of curious envelopes and postal cards now in the possession of a clerk in the Post Office Department. Some of the addresses indicate a high degree of ingenuity in going wrong. They look, indeed, more like cunningly devised riddles than the blunders of ignorant writers.

One envelope is superscribed, "bin harmonson, Washim, T. C." That would have puzzled almost any one but a postal clerk. It was surmised, however, that the letter was intended for Benjamin Harrison President of the United States, and the surmise turned out to be correct. The missive probably contained some advice about running the government. An applicant for office would at least have addressed the President as "Mr."

"Nasel true brunbum, Washen," was the address on a letter from Trenton, Kansas. Even this did not baffle the expert officials. They concluded that the writer had in mind the National Tribune, and this proved to be the case.

A letter superscribed "p E n. E baker an son" was meant for Pennybaker & Son. For some time the clerks puzzled over "For Misses Sole, a tornela, W." but it was finally decided that Messrs Soule & Co., attorneys-at-law, were the parties intended, and so it proved.

"On the big pensylvania avenue in the care of boin havelton in the grocery Store of George Jackson," was the address on another envelope. The reference to a

grocery store took the letter to Barbour & Hamilton, grocers, and Mr. Jackson received his mail.

An envelope directed to "Uncle Sam's Seed Barn," was delivered to the agricultural department, and was found to contain a letter, evidently written in good faith, from a Pennsylvania farmer, who wanted his share of government seeds.

A postal card directed to "19 I. O. Sanckle" went to 19 Iowa Circle, where it belonged.

Twelve Years' Test.

DEAR SIRS,—We have used Hagyard's Yellow Oil in our family for twelve years and find nothing to equal it for rheumatism, lumbago, lame back, frost bites, etc. We would not be without it.

MRS. MATILDA CHICK, Winnipeg, Man.

The Perth Demonstration.

PERTH, Oct. 19.—The Perth demonstration was a grand affair. The ministers, Bowell, Chapleau, Costigan, Carling, Frank Smith, Foster, Tupper and Thompson went down in the Intercolonial car.

An address congratulatory to Haggart opened the proceedings, next came Haggart's reply which was very quiet. Sir John went for the opposition without gloves. He accused them of dishonesty and said the very men who were howling for their downfall were the men who had received the ill-earned thousands of Pacaud to help them get their seats and who were kept there by men like Pacaud. The government meant to have a new regime and were fighting to gain that intention. If one side was wrong the other was bad, and whilst he must admit that circumstances were bad, the government were doing all in their power to remedy them. Hon. George E. Foster made the speech of the day. He launched out on the trade question, encouraged the idea that the egg industry should thrive and informed the audience that in a few days they would see grand arrangements made in egg and poultry trade. The N. P. was the only policy and immigration would thrive under it.

Messrs. Chapleau, Tupper and Bowell followed in the same strain.

No Objection.

Mr. Luke Harron, an easy going old farmer, was especially proud of two things, his sheep and his poultry, and all visitors to the farm were taken out to see them.

Thus it chanced that Constable Short, who had come over from the village to serve on Farmer Harron a summons to act as a jurymen, was on his hands and knees peering into the depths of a coop, examining a new variety of chicks. Suddenly, and without the slightest warning, something swift and terrible smote him in the unprotected rear with such force that he was driven head-first into the coop, to the consternation of the feathered inmates.

With some assistance from Farmer Harron—who, it must be admitted, chuckled audibly at the sight—the constable was, at length, cleared from the wreck, his hat was pulled from over his eyes, and then he saw his assailant, a sturdy young ram, standing with lowered head, as if meditating another attack.

Full of wrath the officer cried, "Look here, Harron! Can't a man look at your hens without being knocked over by a confounded ram?"

"Wal," replied Farmer Harron, philosophically, "I dunno; ye might try agin 'n' see how't would turn out. I'm sure I haint any objection."

A laughable circumstance occurred a few evenings ago on a Canadian Pacific train. A passenger of St. Catharines and his wife were travelling West. The husband took sick and the wife got off at a way station for a mustard plaster. Returning to the car she mistook the berth and put the plaster on the back of a drunken man in another berth.

George Holbrooke, a railway conductor residing in Findlay, O., is in an unfortunate and exceptional predicament. Thirteen years ago his wife became, as the physicians staid, permanently insane, and was placed in an asylum. Finally Mr. Holbrooke married again. Last Tuesday morning his insane wife awakened, quietly asked for her husband, expecting to take up life where she had unconsciously dropped it thirteen years before, the interim being to her a perfect blank. When she learned the truth and the fact of her husband's second marriage an illness followed, but the physicians pulled her through. If her grief was poignant, that of her husband and his second wife was hardly less so. The fact that the latter was ignorant of her husband's first marriage did not help her feelings. The first Mrs. Holbrooke has engaged attorneys to bring suits for an interest to Mr. Holbrooke's property.

Jefferson's Ten Rules.

Jefferson's ten rules are so short and concise, and embody so much of value, that it would be well if they were printed in very bold type and put where we could see them often. They read as follows:

- 1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.
5. Pride costs more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We seldom repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain the evils have cost that have never happened.
9. Take things always by the smooth handle.
10. When angry, count ten before you talk; if very angry, count a hundred.

Library and Museum of War Relics.

Plans have been drawn for the erection in this city, by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, of a library and museum of war relics, which would in time become a most valuable institution. The history of the war has not been written yet, and probably cannot be until all who took part in the struggle have passed away, and then it must be written by some patient, disinterested historian, who shall examine all the evidence on disputed questions of fact, which he can do only by the aid of a great reference library. The Loyal Legion is engaged in a national undertaking, but it is one of peculiar local interest to Philadelphia, where it is proposed to erect this grand memorial of war.—Philadelphia Ledger.

An umbrella which was evidently intended expressly for the wandering Jew, made its appearance at McAdam, N. B., the other day, having arrived by express from Halifax, en route to Quebec. This umbrella is old and battered and travel-stained, and during the past three months it has travelled thousands of miles in search of an owner. It was first sent out from the office of the United States Express Company, in St. Louis, and first travelled south. After visiting nearly all of the Southern and Western States, the umbrella flitted over into Canada, took a trip on the Canadian Pacific to Vancouver, then crossed to Hong Kong, and then returned over the ocean and the continent to St. John, N. B. From St. John the much travelled umbrella was sent to Halifax, from which place it was forwarded via McAdam Junction to Quebec to catch the steamer for Liverpool. It is completely covered with tags, labels and wrapping twine, attached by the different express companies.

Monday afternoon a clarion-voiced vendor of a patent medicine called Shamrock oil took his stand in a carriage on Water street, Summerside. In a short time a crowd gathered, and patients were ready for treatment. An old man with a stiff neck of 20 years' standing was receiving an application and improving under the warm strokes of the manipulator's hands, when suddenly a shower of stale hen fruit disturbed the process and scattered the audience. The vendor left by steamer, concluding Summerside was no place for business.

Wolves are rapidly increasing in the isolated portions of Kansas and threaten the lives of the farmers. The baby of Albert Riddle, who lives near Seneca, Kan., was playing in a yard on a recent Sunday, when it was heard to scream. Riddle ran to the door and saw a great wolf galloping away with the baby in his mouth. He started after the wolf calling on his big greyhound, which soon overtook the savage beast and forced it to drop the child. The baby was unhurt except a deep scratch along its back. The wolf was too much for the dog and made his escape.

During the stay of the Queen of Spain at Burgos recently, Her Majesty visited the nuns of Las Hueglas, the convent of which can never be entered except by members of the royal family. It is only on these rare occasions that the walled entrance gate is pulled down, to be constructed again by the bricklayers as soon as the scions of royalty have made their exit.

Over a Century Old.

Many cases are known of persons living to be over 100 years old and there is no reason why this should not occur. By paying attention to the health by using Burdock Blood Bitters when necessary to purify the blood and strengthen the system much may be added to the comfort and happiness of life even if the century mark is not attained.