

**Open Letter from James D. Phinney, M. P. to Dr. E. H. Leger, read at the Liberal Conservative Convention held at Buctouche on the 20th inst.**

*Dr. E. H. Leger:*

DEAR SIR—I very much regret that the state of my health is such, that under the advice of my medical attendant, I cannot be present at the meeting of Conservative friends and delegates to be held at Buctouche to-morrow. I therefore avail myself of this means to briefly give expression to my views with reference to the exciting questions at issue in the coming contest, and the choice of a candidate who I have no doubt, will on the 5th of the ensuing month be elected as the Representative of this County.

The election, involving as it does, the decision of our trade, and possible political relations, with the neighboring Republic, is one of the most important that has engaged the attention of the electors of the Dominion of Canada. On the one hand, we have the proposal for a treaty of reciprocal trade with our neighbors, in which the interests of Canada shall be fully guarded and protected. On the other an offer of "Unrestricted Reciprocity" or "Commercial Union," by which the trade doors between the two countries shall be thrown wide open, while our tariff with all other countries (Great Britain included) shall be framed and regulated from Washington.

Having somewhat carefully studied the question, I have no hesitation in placing myself squarely on the former platform, believing it to be the only one on which any self-respecting Canadian, having the true interests of his country at heart, and not the desire for a mere party triumph, can stand.

It is the policy of Sir John McDonald, Sir Hector Langevin and their colleagues. The other is the programme proposed by Messrs. Cartwright, Laurier and their adviser, Mr. Wiman, of New York, and his friends at Washington.

The result of the approval by the electors of Mr. Wiman's policy would be the abolition of all customs charges between the Dominion and the Republic, the imposition of duties upon all British importations, largely in excess of those now levied, and the consequent necessity for a Direct Tax of \$18,000,000.00, to be levied upon the ratepayers of Kent and every other section of the Dominion, to maintain the ordinary services of the country. This fact is well established by the investigations not only of leading members of the Conservative party but of Liberals as well, prominent amongst the latter being Mr. E. W. Thomson, late Editor of the Toronto Globe.

All the reciprocal trade desired by any section of our people can, and I believe will no doubt be obtained by the present Government, whenever the American Government is satisfied that the policy of the Liberal party is not acceptable to Canada, and the hope of bringing about the annexation of this Dominion, is thus destroyed. The veteran leader of the Liberal Conservative Government, and his party are already on record on this question of Reciprocity. It was through the efforts of Sir John A. Macdonald that the treaty of 1854 was made, which was subsequently terminated by the American Government. Since its repeal, Sir John has repeatedly expressed his willingness to negotiate a treaty on the same lines, with such changes as the altered circumstances of both countries should justify, and on more than one occasion overtures have been made by him to the Washington Government for that purpose. These overtures have hitherto been rejected; but now Mr. Blaine, the American Secretary of State, has signified to the Imperial Government his readiness to discuss the question with a view to the renewal of the Treaty.

I believe that in the conduct of the proposed negotiations, the true interests of the Dominion, fiscal and political, will be safe in the hands of the men who have been so largely instrumental in making this country what it now is—the wonder and admiration of the civilized world, in developing its great resources and making it the home of millions of happy and contented people of different nationalities, living in peace and harmony with each other.

To such men as Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, Hon. Joseph Chapleau, Hon. Geo. E. Foster (the worthy and eloquent successor of Sir Leonard Tilley as Finance Minister) and Sir John Thompson, aided by the mature knowledge and statesmanship of Sir Charles Tupper, the country can safely trust its interests in the coming negotiations. At this central juncture in the history of this "Young Dominion" it would be very doubtful and in my opinion very dangerous policy to entrust the government of the country to any party such as the Liberal party now is, which takes its instructions from Washington and permits its tariff to be formed by Wiman, Blaine, Hitt, and Butterworth of the United States.

The French speaking people of this country particularly have nothing to gain by supporting the policy of this so-called Liberal party—the ultimate result of which would be a political union with the United States by which they would be deprived of the special privileges which are assured to them under the Canadian Constitution.

Having said this much upon the general questions at issue in the election, I desire to give expression to my opinion as to the choice of the Liberal Conservative candidate for this County.

In view of the situation, and the fact that only a few months ago the county passed through the excitement of a Dominion election, and that the member then elected by such a handsome majority, has not yet had the privilege of occupying a seat in Parliament, I think there can be but one opinion as to the choice, amongst Liberal-Conservatives, both French and English. You, sir, by the honorable and manly way in which you fought the last election, and by the interest you have manifested in the public works of the County and the attention you have paid to your duties, since your election, have fairly earned the support of the party on this occasion, and I am pleased to be able to say that from conversations I have had with, and communications I have received from leading men all over the County, the further opinion is expressed, that as a matter of Fair Play, you should be returned by acclamation.

In the event of an opposition candidate being nominated, however, I entertain no doubt of your return, and I trust that in view of a probable contest, your friends will effect such an organization that a full vote will be polled, and your election secured by an increased majority.

I am,  
Yours very truly,  
J. D. PHINNEY.

Richibucto, Feb. 19, 1891.

## CARD.

To the Electors of the County of Kent:

GENTLEMEN,—

The Governor General having dissolved Parliament, I again find myself called upon to solicit your suffrages.

I do so with the utmost confidence, being fully assured that the electors who six months ago so generously and fully gave me their votes are still willing to favor me with their generous support. To do otherwise would be to condemn me without allowing me an opportunity of doing either well or ill, inasmuch as I have not yet had the privilege of occupying a seat in Parliament. I also feel assured of the support, in the present contest of a large number who from personal or political reasons, cast their votes for the other candidates in the election of last summer.

The political question now at issue between the McDonald-Langevin Government on the one hand, and the opposition, nominally led by Honorable Mr. Laurier, but in reality by Sir Richard Cartwright, on the other hand, is this: The Government proposes to negotiate with the United States a Treaty of Commercial Reciprocity by which Canadians shall only give as they shall receive; the Liberals are ready to surrender everything in the first instance, and then be content with the crumbs which may fall from our neighbor's table. The Conservatives desire Reciprocity on Fair Terms: the Liberals Unrestricted Reciprocity.

The policy of the Liberal Conservative party is mine, because in the first place in my judgment, we would risk too much by blindly placing ourselves at the mercy of the United States, without any guarantees whatever; and in the second place, inasmuch as Unrestricted Reciprocity would deprive us of a large portion of the twenty-three millions of duties which are now collected and from which the charges and expenses of the Federal and Provincial Governments are now paid, it would therefore be necessary for us to resort to Direct Taxation to maintain the service of the country, and to raise at least fifteen million dollars by a Direct Assessment upon the people. Fifteen millions represent about \$15 direct tax on each family.

I am opposed to this direct tax, which would fall especially heavy on the farmers. Remember, gentlemen, that the political question to be decided in this election is a very important one, and if you share my views I will be much pleased to receive your votes on the 5th of March next.

I am, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
EDWARD H. LEGER.

Buctouche, February 14, 1891.

It has been affirmed that the mariner's compass was invented in China, 1100 years B. C., but a writer in the China Review, who has been investigating the subject, now asserts that the first unmistakable mention of the compass in Chinese records is not earlier than the twelfth century and that the instrument undoubtedly became known in Europe before the return from China of Marco Polo, who is fabled to have brought it in his baggage.

Mrs. Tennant, mother of Mrs. Stanley, says to an interviewer: "In America, as in England, there are thousands and thousands of sweet, lovely girls who are fading away because there are no husbands for them. This is really deplorable, and a question of far more importance, in my mind, than the labor problem."

Mr. W. C. McDonald, the wealthy Montreal tobacco manufacturer, has given \$40,000 to the endowment of an electrical engineering chair in McGill college. His bequests to McGill college within the past

two years amount to about a million dollars. Sir Donald Smith will shortly make a very large donation—probably over a million dollars—towards the completion of the Donald department for the higher education of women.

Some twenty-five lives were destroyed by the bursting of a boiler in the worsted mills, near Quebec city, last week.

## CARD.

To the Electors of the County of Northumberland:

Gentlemen,—As the Parliament of Canada has been dissolved it has become necessary for you again to select a representative in the House of Commons and at the request of a large number of my friends and the unanimous selection of the Liberal party, I again offer myself as the candidate for your suffrages.

It is scarcely necessary for me after my thirty years of parliamentary life to define my position but I may say that I am opposed to the general policy of the present government which has had the effect of enriching the few at the expense of the many, and which policy has led to an enormous increase of the debt of the country and has involved a heavy burden of taxation on the food and household necessities of the people as well as crippling their industries.

I am in favor of effecting an arrangement with the United States for the fullest possible measure of reciprocity consistent with the management of our own finances, and on studying the address of the Premier of Canada as well as the speeches of his colleagues, I can find nothing which gives me the least hope of their desiring to enter seriously into this question or to agree to anything which has not already been repudiated by the government at Washington. It will be impossible for me in the short time the government has allowed to visit all parts of the country, but I will endeavor to do what I can in that direction, and will explain my views at such public meetings as may be held.

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