

The Daily Mail

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MR. McLEOD AND RECIPROCITY

Provincial Secretary McLeod, in his speech at St. John on Tuesday, devoted some attention to the question of reciprocity and if his remarks were correctly reported in The Standard, he certainly did not give evidence of being overburdened with knowledge of his subject. For instance, we find him credited with this somewhat remarkable statement:

"The people of the United States thought they could come over here and secure our raw materials and use our unskilled labor at low cost. These raw materials would be shipped across the border and there the skilled men would produce the finished products and they would be shipped back to our own people. The high wages of the skilled laborer would help to build up the United States, while Canada would only be a producer of raw material."

If our memory serves us right, this is precisely the style of argument which Mr. McLeod made use of when he was trying to hoodwink the people of York County during the flag-flapping campaign of 1911. In fact, the whole burden of the Tory song at that time was no truck or trade with the Yankees. Conditions have undergone a change since then but Mr. McLeod sticks to his old shop-worn argument. Under the new United States tariff lumber is admitted to the American market free of duty and substantial reductions have been made in the duty on many articles of farm produce. This is the very thing which Mr. McLeod seemed to be afraid would happen under reciprocity but so far no great harm has resulted from the change. Lumbering and agriculture are the chief industries of York County and it will scarcely be denied that our lumbermen and farmers have benefited enormously from the trade which has been stimulated by the new tariff.

Mr. McLeod, however, pretends to believe that raw materials should not be sent out of the country. He talks about "common sense business ideas," but we can tell him that the men who are the real wealth producers of York County have just as good common sense and just as good business ideas as he possesses. Every mill-owner in the county is exporting lumber to the United States and as a rule they pay their men just as good wages as prevail in the mills across the line. Without the American market the lumber and milling business in York would not amount to much. The raw materials which our millmen now export to the United States include shingles, laths and dressed lumber. Mr. McLeod says skilled work men across the border convert these into finished products and "they would be shipped back to be sold to our people." This view will scarcely be shared by the men engaged in the business. As a matter of fact, they probably take the view that so long as the Yankees buy the goods and pay the price they can make what disposition of them they see fit.

Mr. McLeod says that our raw materials should not be sent out of the country but what is he going to do to prevent it? Would he advocate the imposition of an export duty on natural products? According to common report he is to contest York County for the House of Commons in the near future and he will have an opportunity to more fully explain his position. He should take the electors into his confidence and state what steps he proposes to take to prevent our raw material from going into the United States. This is a matter in which the people of York have a vital interest. Many Conservatives as well as Liberals are engaged in the lumbering industry and are dependent to a large extent on the American market. We were under the impression that they were doing something to develop the resources of New Brunswick but Mr. McLeod takes the ground that they are preparing a "barren heritage" for their children. We do not think that good Conservatives like the Messrs. Douglas of Stanley, will concur very heartily in Mr. McLeod's views on this great

economic question. His views will stand considerable modification before he appeals for the suffrage of the electors of this county. The arguments which did duty two years ago will scarcely go down with the farmers of this county under present conditions and Mr. McLeod will have to prepare a new case which will adapt itself to present day conditions.

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Chances are she has corns that ache like fury. Buy her a bottle of Putnam's Corn Extractor. It acts painlessly, gives instant relief and cures every kind of corn. Insist on getting only Putnam's Extractor, 25c. a all dealers.

WOULD BUY DIAMOND RING

(Continued on page four.)

respect. His experience as a contractor, however, is somewhat limited, otherwise he must know that a government official would compromise himself were he to accept a gift from contractors or others seeking favors from the government. If he wants a precedent The Mail can give him one. If Mr. McLeod cannot recall it, his brother, the provincial secretary, can tell him about the case of the late lamented Henry A. Perley, chief engineer of the Dominion Public Works Department. In the early nineties, charges of graft were made against the department and an investigation was made, which showed, to the great astonishment of the public, that Mr. Perley had been indiscreet enough to accept gifts from contractors. He lost his position and died in disgrace a few years later.

The late Mr. T. B. Winslow was secretary of the Provincial Public Works Department for many years and got along fairly well without diamond rings. The present secretary may be in need of such an adornment and if he is, Mr. McLeod will be well advised if he lets him buy it and pay for it with his own money. The extras which he gathered in last year in connection with a little trip to Carleton County on public business will defray the cost of a good sized diamond. Officials of the government, if they have any regard for public opinion, should avoid the very appearance of evil, and should keep themselves above suspicion.



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SOME THINGS WE KNOW

That the boys who go skating on the river should not be too venturesome.

That the policemen who do duty in the market should try to do something to keep down the cost of living.

That the new railway is beginning to bring some trade to Fredericton.

That the students will be pulling up stakes and leaving next week.

That The Mail handed out a few bouquets to the new judge last evening and broke its press.

That York County is in for a couple of by-elections early in January.

That a number of the boys who barn stormed two years ago have since been banished into government jobs.

That if an official in a government office would let the postman get his mail for him he would have absolutely nothing to do.

That the price of furnace wood soars along with that of other household necessities.

That a person visiting some of Fredericton's stores these days could easily imagine himself in a big city.

That a little more snow would help liven things up a bit just now.

That people will start in talking civic politics early in the new year.

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December 1st. 1913

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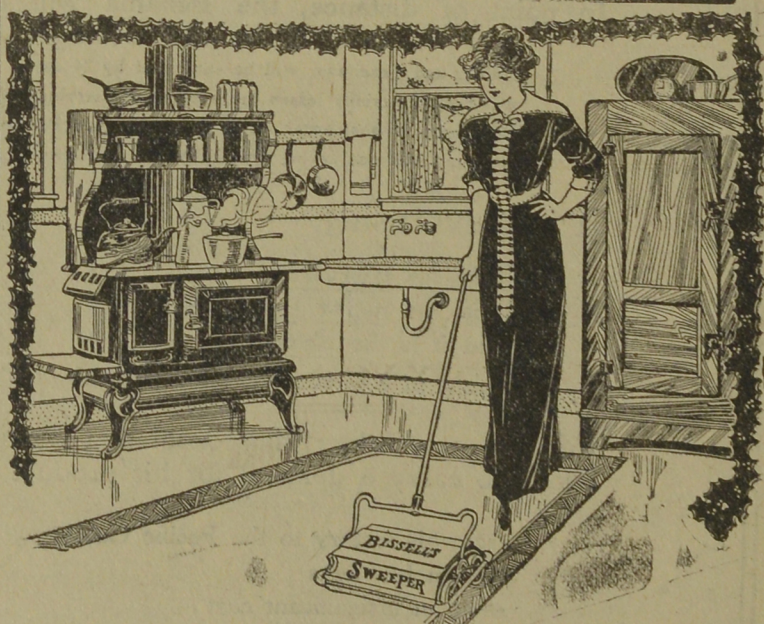
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