

MR. R. B. HANSON, M. P. GIVES HIS VIEWS ON THE DUFF RECIPROCITY RESOLUTION

Would Favor a Trade Agreement With the United States If It Can Be Made on Fair and Reasonable Terms—Thinks That There Should Be Stability in the Terms.

Following is the Hansard report of this question on its merits, and when the speech delivered in Parliament this week by R. B. Hanson, M.P. on reciprocity resolution moved by Mr. Duff of Antigonish-Guysboro, N. S.:

Mr. R. B. Hanson (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that after the very dispassionate manner in which the mover of the resolution (Mr. Duff) discussed the subject, and after the very thorough and, I should add, illuminating manner in which the Prime Minister has dealt with the topic, the house will not expect me in any controversial spirit to engage with the hon. member (Mr. MacLean) who has just taken his seat. To him I would say only this, that for good and sufficient seasons the Canadian people in 1911 defeated the reciprocity pact; it was not a treaty at all.

Mr. Munn: And they have been sorry ever since.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): They have never said so, and I shall have to have better evidence than that supplied by the hon. member for North Vancouver (Mr. Munn) before I change my opinion in the matter. Therefore I have no desire whatever to engage in any controversy as to the whys or wherefores surrounding the defeat of reciprocity in 1911. Rather should we, I believe, devote our attention to the consideration we should give to the resolution before us, directing our minds chiefly to the question as to whether or not at this time the subject matter should be before us at all.

The Old Treaty

I have no doubt in the world as to the sincerity of the hon. member who proposed the resolution. No doubt he has listened to the legend telling of the advantages of the reciprocity treaty of 1854. I was not born in those days, and I doubt if many hon. members in the house remember even the latter part of the period involved. I do however recall hearing my grandfather, who was in trade in a small way, telling me about the days of the reciprocity treaty of 1854. I believe it is the consensus of opinion that so far as the maritime provinces were concerned that convention or treaty, or whatever you may wish to call it, was of advantage to that section of Canada. But we have to remember what day and generation that was. I also recall of having heard him tell of the distress that prevailed in the Maritime Provinces because of the abrogation of that treaty. To me as a young boy he gave me a lesson of what might happen if we entered into an arrangement whereby our trade should be turned into certain channels and then be arbitrarily cut off, as happened in 1867. That is one of the reasons why I think the Canadian people in 1911 voted as they did. It may not have been a good reason, but I have no doubt it was a reason.

Congratulates Duff

I desire to congratulate the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough, on the manner in which he treated the subject. There is no question where he stands. He believes it to be in the interests of the people of Nova Scotia, particularly the fishing interests, to have access to the markets of New England. I was born in sight of American territory, and I have lived all my life there. I represent a constituency which adjoins the American republic on an extensive border line and I know that propinquity, contiguity, is a strong factor in creating a disposition to trade with our American neighbors, especially between the maritime provinces and New England. Personally, I am perfectly willing to enter into an arrangement at any time with respect to that if it can be done on a fair and reasonable basis, and terms that will be stable as to time. But I am not willing that we should enter into an arrangement that can be terminated at the whim of any American politician. I spent a week in the gallery of the United States Senate in April 1929, when the Hawley-Smoot bill was being dealt with in its last stages, and I witnessed what they did and how they handled it. I have no desire to repeat the story here. But there is a large amount of sentiment in both countries ready to consider

the proper time arrives, I think we should consider it that way.

The historical data that has been placed upon Hansard this afternoon by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) should be of great value. I commend it particularly to the notice of hon. member from Prince. If he will go back to his constituents and tell them as long ago as 1879 the government of Sir John A. Macdonald, when Sir Leonard Tilley was finance minister, put an offer of reciprocity on the statute books of this country, he will be doing the fair thing, but knowing him as I do, I doubt if he will do it. Let him tell them also of the statement made by Mr. Fielding in 1923. I was a member of the house at that time and recall the circumstances very well. As far as I am aware, that proposal which is quite in line with the policy of the Conservative party previous to 1896, has never been repealed.

The Modus Vivendi

The hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough has touched, very properly from his standpoint, on the question of the modus vivendi. I lived for twenty-one years in the constituency of Charlotte, New Brunswick, where they have the largest body of fishermen of any county of New Brunswick, though not as large as some in Nova Scotia. That county particularly, lying as it does along the shores of the Bay of Fundy, and adjacent to the American border, is particularly interested in this question. Personally, I never could understand why the modus vivendi with respect to the use of our ports were cut off, and I commend the action of the administration in renewing it in the last few days. But I do suggest, in the absence of further information, that the period suggested seems to be too short. I never could understand why it should be limited to time or as to its operation. I agree entirely with hon. member from Antigonish-Guysborough that in the absence of good arguments to the contrary our ports should be open to the Gloucester fishermen not only for shelter and wood and water and repairs, but for the privilege of buying bait and supplies and transshipping fish in bond to the American republic. I understand that privilege has been enjoyed at Prince Rupert, British Columbia, for years and years, and why the same principle is not applicable on the Atlantic coast I do not understand. I think some explanation is due. I believe the government will be conferring a benefit on the fishermen of the Atlantic provinces that if they can see their way clear for renewing this modus vivendi for twelve months in the year and allowing the Gloucester fishermen to make those purchases in our ports, I would add though, that the greatest enemy of the project is not the Canadian government, but the supply men of Gloucester, who are absolutely opposed to the distribution of that money in Canada. It is just another illustration of their attitude toward this country. I am told that many of the men who are interested in the vessels as owners are also interested in supplying these vessels with bait and provisions. The hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough will probably know about that better than I.

Adverse Tariffs

Perhaps it would have been just as well if the motion had been withdrawn after the Prime Minister made his statement this afternoon, but as it has not been done I think we ought to go ahead and examine it at some little length, if only for educational purposes, for the benefit of those, who living in the interior of the country, are perhaps, not as much interested in the matter as we who are contiguous to New England. It must, I think, be apparent to all that whenever a Republican administration has been in power in the United States, save and except the one of 1911, adverse tariffs have been imposed against us by our neighbors to the south, and whenever a Democratic administration has been in power, there has been, at least to a degree, a reversal of that

situation. Therefore, I confess, that I have some little hope, though no certainty, that the Democratic party, which is about to assume office in a very few days, will give some consideration to this problem of better trade relations with other countries, especially Canada. I suggest to my hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough that perhaps his resolution is a little premature. Having regard to the fact that the Democratic administration is not yet in office, and that the administration is now going out is moribund and without power in the United States Congress, it would have been better, had he delayed bringing up the question.

The second reason why the motion is premature is the one alluded to by the Prime Minister; I refer to the world economic conference which we hope will be held very shortly, and at which this very question of tariffs is to be discussed. I think I have made it plain on more than one occasion during the years I have been honored with a seat in this house that I am not a high tariff man.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear. Come over here.

Political Color

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): I do not want to be provocative, but when I look over there I see every stripe of political color with regard to the tariff. I see the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. Malcolm), who has high protection on his furniture, and I see free traders scattered all over. I see the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard), with his protected industries; probably he wants even more protection. I understand that he is a director of a great new industry that was recently established in his province with a 35 per cent protection.

Mr. Vallance: And you see Tories from Saskatchewan sitting beside you.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): Yes, but there are Tories and Tories. There is the old trusted type like Sir Wilfred Laurier, than whom there was no greater Tory in Canada in his day.

Hon. gentlemen have succeeded in diverting me from the line of thought I was pursuing. I think in due time we will all come to recognize—and I say this without political bias—that tariffs are best used as weapons for securing trade. That is the argument upon which, in my own constituency, I have based my defence of a tariff system in Canada. I do know, however, that the United States never had more respect for Canada than she had when we put up our tariffs as a result of the election of 1930. Further, she never had more contempt for Canada than she had during the period from 1922 to 1930, when this country turned the other cheek after being slapped repeatedly. Then we had the spectacle of the Dunning budget, by which the Liberal party endeavored to withdraw from an impossible situation which they had assumed for eight years.

Part of Heritage

Mr. Malcolm: Very good years for trade.

Mr. Hanson: Yes, good all over the world, and Canada got her share. But let me tell the ex-Minister of Trade and Commerce that during those eight years we were selling the raw material of this country, part of our heritage.

Mr. Malcolm: I beg to differ with my hon. friend. The percentage of manufactured goods exported was higher during that period than it is today.

Mr. Bennett: That included newsprint; that is why.

Mr. Hanson: If the hon. gentleman includes flour and that sort of thing among manufactured products, probably he is correct. It all depends on how you classify those things. I do say, however, that in my own province, and I believe in Nova Scotia as well, the bulk of the exports during those years was raw materials.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): Yes, I would say that lumber in a semi-manufactured state is raw material. Come down with me to the county of Charlotte and I will show you where white pine sawn only one way, that is with the waste on, is being carried over to Mattawamkeag, Maine, and sold to the Diamond Match Company. There it is manufactured into match blocks and shipped to various parts of the United States for manufacture in to matches. Also I will tell the hon. gentleman that these match blocks made out of Canadian white pine cut down in the county of Charlotte, New Brunswick, are being manufactured into match blocks in Maine and ship-

ped to England in the manufactured state. If that is not exporting our raw material I do not know what it is. The only reason they do not ship the tree to the plant in Maine is that they want the lumber to dry and be air seasoned before it is manufactured. This is what we did from 1922 to 1930; we exported raw material out of this country, and many a man went after it. We lost a million good Canadians during that period.

Mr. Malcolm: Can my hon. friend tell me how many more Canadian citizens would be employed cutting this white pine into match blocks? It is a trivial operation.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): I can tell the hon. gentleman that if that plant were in Canada just that many more Canadians would be employed.

Mr. Malcolm: Just how many? It is a trivial operation, as my hon. friend knows.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): I am free to confess that I do not know anything about it. I do know how big the operation may be, but I see the plant as I go by Mattawamkeag, Maine, every month or every two weeks, and I know that the plant is in the United States and that it is manufacturing Canadian raw material.

Cotton Mills

Mr. Malcolm: What about Canadian cotton mills manufacturing United States cotton.

Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): Everyone knows that raw cotton is not indigenous to this country. Rightly or wrongly, fifty years or more ago we built up a cotton industry in this country. I do not know, but it is just possible that if we had it to do all over again we would proceed differently. Rightly or wrongly we build up an automobile manufacturing business in this country, in which millions of dollars have been invested. Since that industry was established all governments have given it protection. Rightly or wrongly we build up other industries in this country, including the furniture industry, and we have given them protection. My hon. friend makes very good furniture; I bought some of it, and I suppose according to the arguments of my hon. friend I paid him 35 per cent excess profits on it. I only hope the government of this country has received some of that back in income tax.

To be serious, and to return once more to the resolution moved by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough—

Mr. Malcolm: Would my hon. friend permit a question before he gets serious, apropos of what he says about the United States having built up an industry for making match blocks? Why should they not continue to get the pine to supply that industry?

The Liberal Record

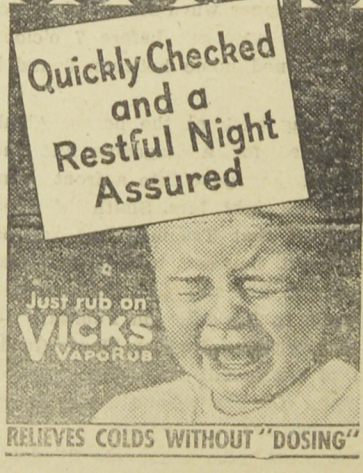
Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury): So far as I am concerned I would much rather see that industry in Canada. The hon. member for North Bruce may desire to see it in the United States; I guess that is the truth, and that is typical of the policies of the Liberal party for years past. They have sought to change Canada into a country of hewers of wood and drawers of water, and if hon. gentlemen opposite had their way there would not be a single industry left in this country. This is my answer to the hon. member for North Bruce: the record of his own party.

"Man is falling behind the machine", states the author of a magazine article. Well that's better than falling in front of it.

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4 large lemons (juice only)
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1 quart milk
Remove juice from four large lemons with glass lemon scraper. Strain and add one teaspoon pure extract of lemon and enough fine granulated sugar to make it the consistency of batter. Pack freezer with ice and salt. Pour quart of milk into can, add lemon but steadily till frozen.

Frederic William Wile, Columbia's political analyst, will deliver an address at the Detroit Town Hall Club late in March. The other day he received the following letter from the club:

"Please don't take offense, but we want to warn you that the last two men who spoke out here were broadcasters like yourself. They turned out to be complete flops. It looks to us as if men glib enough before a microphone with notes are likely to

be total losses when they have to think on their feet before an audience."

In a good family, boys turn out as well without spanking as they do with. Men are put in jail because they won't let their fellow-men alone. x Life: a series of reactions, the last determined by the first.

Some cooks haven't shrewdness enough to know that any hash is a success, only put onions enough in it.

Notice of Legislation

Notice is hereby given that application will be made by the Municipality of York to the Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick at the next Session thereof for the passing of an Act to amend Chapter 35 of the Acts of 1922 so as to increase the amount of the Bank Loan under the said Act to an amount of \$60,000.

Dated the 24th day of January, 1933.
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