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DR. ATHERTON THE MAN FOR YORK

(Continued from page four)

reciprocity with the United States had been an actual fact. He was conversant with the benefits that had been conferred on the British provinces by that tariff arrangement which after being in force for ten years had been abrogated by the Americans mainly on account of the War of Secession in the republic. He was well acquainted with one industry of great importance to his own county of Queens which had existed when trade relations between Canada and the United States had been better than at present. For twenty years wood was on the United States free list and during that time half the population of Queens County had been engaged in the industry of cutting and shipping to Rockland, Maine wood that was used in the lumbering industry at that place. That industry had been largely instrumental in preventing the County of Queens from losing her people by emigration as had other counties of the province. Was it not a fair assumption that if the absence of a tariff on the articles mentioned had so greatly benefited one section of the province that free trade in natural products between Canada and the United States would benefit similar industries?

MARKET NOT NOW AVAILABLE.

The Senator discussed the local butter market noting that since Confederation the farmers of this province have had to compete with those of Ontario and Quebec even in the limited market afforded by the City of St. John. Surely with other provinces under existing conditions able to lower prices in their own market New Brunswick farmers had nothing to risk by reciprocity. No province of the Dominion was so well situated as New Brunswick to develop a large trade in natural products under reciprocity with the American republic. This province had agricultural land equal in fertility to that of any part of Canada and yet its price was lower than that of land in the newer provinces. Why? Because there was no market for the farmer.

THEN AND NOW.

"Just here," said the Senator, "I must say I almost wonder why this convention is held for in my last campaign, that of 1896, Mr. O. S. Crockett, the present Tory candidate, in York, rendered me yeoman service in the County of Queens, where I was a Liberal candidate. (Laughter.) Then Mr. Crockett did not assail the Liberal party. He shouted as loudly as anyone else, 'Turn the rascals out.' And we did turn them out. In fact I think that Mr. Crockett could argue better on the side on which I am today than that on which he now is." (Laughter and applause.)

The Senator digressed a little and told the convention that he had just received word that his son, Dr. J. H. King of Cranbrook, B.C., had been nominated in the Liberal interest in the constituency of East Kootenay. He could not hope that he would win as a victory would result in serious interference with his business. However, he was afraid he would win.

The statement of Senator King was received with loud applause.
WILL BENEFIT ST. JOHN.
Continuing his exposition of the benefits that will result from reciprocity, Senator King said that no great Canadian port was better situated than St. John for carrying on trade with United States ports. Water carriage always kept railway rates down when the two means of transportation were competitive. Or that account both land and water rates between St. John and Boston were low.

THE STANDARD'S CONTRADICTION.

The St. John Standard came in for considerable attention from the Senator, who alluded to the mess that newspaper made of an attempt to show that the farmers of New Brunswick cannot compete with those of the United States under reciprocity. He quoted direct from the editorial columns of that journal. There he found the statement that at present New Brunswick potatoes had a market in Montreal which under reciprocity would be captured by the potatoes grown in the State of New York. The very same editorial farther on contained the statement that the United States must have Canadian farm products and for that reason would reciprocity. The audience received this contradictory statements with a laugh.

POTATO MARKET.

From the same newspaper the Senator quoted another statement to the effect that the State of Maine raised in the last year about 28,000,000 bushels of potatoes and New Brunswick about 700,000. What made the difference? The fact that the potato grower of Maine had a market that the grower of New Brunswick did not have. Under existing conditions a

farmer in this province would be a fool to plant a fifty-acre field with only the limited market available. Maine's potato crop at a valuation of fifty cents a bushel, would be worth \$14,000,000. If New Brunswick farmers could get half that crop in the American market it would mean \$7,000,000 for them. There was certainly something wrong when young farmers of New Brunswick left their potatoes in the fields to be picked by women and children and went to the potato fields of Arnostook County, Maine, and picked potatoes for the Yankee growers at two dollars per day.

BENEFIT TO THE LUMBERMAN

The Senator dealt with the value of the United States market to the Canadian lumbermen. In his hearing at Ottawa Senator Edwards whose connection with the lumber trade of Canada was well known, had stated if Hon. Mr. Fielding could not keep the United States from imposing the maximum tariff on Canadian lumber it meant ruin to many lumbermen and also the failure of several banks. As far as New Brunswick was concerned it would be unnecessary for him to say that spruce logs could not be cut and manufactured if the lath that were made from them could not be sold. And where was the market for lath if not in the United States? What other country made use of them? It certainly was not Great Britain. If R. L. Borden should be returned to power to be consistent he would have to take from the free-list the articles now on it and in that event the maximum tariff of the United States would go into effect. A prominent St. John River lumberman had told him that he was selling practically all his output into the United States and that the maximum American tariff would destroy the industry. Lumber sold for \$12 to \$15 per thousand and the maximum would mean a tax of \$4.50. If 50 cents on shingles had ruined the shingle-trade with Boston how long could the lumber business stand the tax mentioned?

"Don't believe the newspapers on this reciprocity question," said the Senator. "There is hardly a man here who has no relatives south of the International Boundary. Write to your relatives and they will tell you if prices for farm products are not higher in the United States than they are here. An American lady who was recently my guest at my home told me what prices of farm products were in the New England town in which she lives,—eggs 38 cents per dozen, butter 30 cents per pound, ripe tomatoes 18 cents per pound, cucumbers 10 cents each. Compare the prices with local retail prices."

FORETHOUGHT NEEDED

The Senator proceeded to show that under Reciprocity the American creameries would not be able to import Canadian cream and manufacture it into butter on the other side of the line while Canadian butter was shut out by a heavy duty. He also warned his hearers that the era of high prices for farm produce in the Dominion would soon come to an end. The market for New Brunswick produce made by the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway was already gone and when the thousands of new settlers who had come into the country in late years became producers the market for farm products would still further be reduced. The government that could not look ahead and provide an extended market for the time of depression in the home market, was not worth much. (Applause.)

MR. AMES' ERROR

Before a St. John audience H. B. Ames, the Conservative member for the St. Antoine Division of Montreal had stated that New Brunswick farmers permitted \$2,000,000 worth of American produce to be imported into the province that could be raised in the province. The customs returns showed how much Mr. Ames was concealing when he made that statement. Of the amount of produce mentioned \$1,400,000 was for raw cotton. Would Mr. Ames say the farmers of New Brunswick could raise that? (Laughter.) Leaf tobacco was also included in that total and hides from the Argentine Republic. And then there were \$19,000 worth of summer apples imported when no native apples were ready for market and \$7,000 worth of strawberries imported out of season. That was what made up Mr. Ames' total of \$2,000,000 of agricultural products imported into New Brunswick.

TRANSPORTATION QUESTION.

The Tories were never tired of shouting that reciprocity would make trade run north and south instead of east and west. That might not be a disadvantage but at any rate Mr. R. L. Borden had not opposed the construction of another transcontinental railway. (Laughter.) As far as the "loyalty" cry was concerned it was not worth answering. There was not a Grit or Tory who was not a Can-

adian and proud of it. (Cheers.)

Speaking again of trade routes, the Senator said that whereas prior to 1896 one line of steamers was running from St. John, last year the export trade of that port had amounted to \$25,000,000, and 40 per cent. of that was from the United States and would continue to come to St. John because the Canadian trans-Atlantic route was the shortest and the Canadian railways the best.

In conclusion the Senator congratulated the convention on the choice of a candidate. Dr. Atherton, he said, was a man well known by all, and a strong man. But he would have an uphill fight. It should be remembered that the party had opponents who worked hard and it was the duty of every Liberal to go to the polls on September 21st and vote. (Cheers.)

LAURIER ENDORSED.

At the conclusion of the Senator's address, Mr. J. D. Phinney moved, seconded by Mr. Clarence Goodspeed, a resolution endorsing Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the leader and the policy of the Liberal party. In making his motion Mr. Phinney spoke of the annexation cry raised by the Tory stumpers who were saying that reciprocity meant the dismemberment of the empire. Such people, said the speaker, were to be classed with Bourassa and Monk. (Applause.) The men who were standing behind these two were the leaders of the Conservative party. Personally he was proud to follow the lead of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose loyalty could not be impeached. (Cheers.)

The resolution was as follows:
RESOLVED that we Electors of the County of York assembled in Convention place on record our earnest appreciation and admiration of our great leader—Sir Wilfrid Laurier—under whose guidance the Liberal government of Canada has so conducted the affairs of this County since 1896 as to bring it in the vanguard of the prosperous nations of the world, and to make it the premier Colony in the Empire of Great Britain. We have the most unswerving faith in his loyalty and devotion to our King and Country and are pleased beyond measure to mark the recognition of his services in the Councils of the Empire. Under his administration Canada has prospered amazingly, and with the wise guidance of himself and his Ministers in keeping pace in development with the most energetic younger countries.

We believe in the policy of the great Liberal Party and its Leader and are proud to fight under its banner and his leadership which we hope will continue for many years.

The above resolution was passed unanimously.

ABOVE PARTY POLITICS.

The following very important resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. N. W. Brown and seconded by Mr. Walter Limerick. Making his motion, Mr. Brown mentioned the fact that the nominating committee had asked him, as the candidate who had borne the party standard in the last fight, if he again would consent to be its candidate and he had been compelled, on account of personal and family reasons, to decline. The candidate chosen, Dr. A. B. Atherton, was a man of whom the Liberal party might well be proud and who was one who could be elected on the 21st of September. (Hear! Hear!) Let the farmers be true to themselves and the Liberal candidate would be elected. There was a ring of victory in the air but the price of success was work and hard work at that. The resolution follows:

Whereas, for the past forty years all political parties in Canada have sought freer trade relations with the United States in natural products, and have repeatedly sent deputations to Washington for that purpose; and Whereas the leaders of the Conservative party heretofore have placed themselves on record as being strong advocates of such freer trade; and

Whereas by the action of the American government this boon so long desired has now been made available to the farmers, lumbermen and fishermen of this country; and

Whereas the present leaders of the Conservative party at Ottawa have reversed the policy of their party for the last two generations, and have refused to admit the negotiations for such freer trade to be adopted and carried into effect;

Therefore Resolved, that in this present contest the sole question of importance before the electorate is that of reciprocity in natural products with the United States, and further resolved that such question ought to be placed above party politics and receive the undivided support of the people of the County of York irrespective of party affiliation.

Mr. E. S. Carter, provincial organizer briefly addressed the convention. He complimented them on their choice of a candidate and urged all to take hold and work with a determination to put him at the head of the poll on September 21st.

Senator Thompson who was very warmly received made a vigorous address. He said it looked to him as if the old pendulum which had been going wrong in York for some time was about to swing the other way. (Cheers.) He referred to the prosperity that Canada had enjoyed under Liberal rule and cordially endorsed the reciprocity agreement.

(Continued on page seven)

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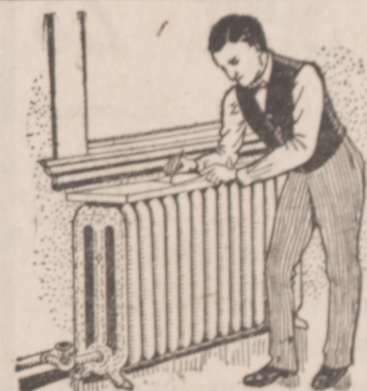
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