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Fredericton, N. B., July 11, 1911

AT CROSS CREEK

It is not for The Mail to say whether or not the extended report of Mr. O. S. Crockett's recent utterances at Cross Creek was written for the \$20 a day Gleaner by the M. P. himself. True, the fact that about six columns of space are given to reporting Mr. Crockett's speech and but a quarter of a column to setting forth the eloquence of Hon. Mr. McLeod might justify the impression that the former gentleman was for this time the Cross Creek reporter of the hack organ. The other fact that it is related by the Gleaner that Mr. Crockett was given "a tremendous ovation" while Mr. McLeod received merely "a grand reception" might deepen the impression in the minds of the men who know Mr. Crockett. But, after all, it is a matter of very little consequence whether or not Mr. Crockett reported Mr. Crockett's speech and wrote words in praise of Mr. Crockett. The fact remains that the M. P. spoke at a Conservative meeting at Cross Creek and that the Solicitor General also addressed the gathering.

Another fact to be noted is that both these gentlemen condemned reciprocity. Mr. McLeod, as was expected of him, seems to have indulged once more in the verbal flag-waving which has come to be characteristic of him, a style of so-called oratory which has been roundly condemned by sensible men who regard thought as of more importance than noise. Mr. Crockett, be it said in his favor made some attempt at argument. At the same time, he too, wandered off into flag waving and into expressing the fear that if Canadian farmers and lumbermen and fishermen should trade freely with the people of the United States this country would consequently transfer its loyalty from the flag of Old England to the new banner of the republic to the south of the border line.

Mr. Crockett's speech was quite noteworthy for some of the things it did not contain. For instance, there was no reference to the fact that a few years ago Mr. Crockett was one of the ardent champions of reciprocity and then saw no danger to British connection in the doctrine he preached. There was no reference moreover, to the great matter of principle which caused him to turn his political coat, though brief recalling of the public life of a New Brunswick politician not long deceased makes all too plain the calibre of York's present representative at Ottawa. However these omissions may be passed by with the thought that the Bulwarks of the Empire must indeed be gratified to know that the eminent Mr. Crockett, who preached reciprocity a few years ago and thus endangered the political future of the Dominion, is now staunchly fighting the very thing he then upheld.

In his attacks upon reciprocity as likely to lead to a weakening of the ties between Canada and the Home Land, Mr. Crockett conveniently ignored some facts which The Mail would draw to his attention and to the attention of people whom he may have misled by his words at Cross Creek. Mr. Crockett boasted of the merits of the National Policy of the Conservative party. One thing he did not say was that when the National Policy was introduced the thought uppermost in the mind of Sir John MacDonald was that as a result of that tariff policy Canada would gain reciprocity of trade with the United States for in his own words it was felt that the adoption of the policy



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in question would "greatly tend to procure for this country, eventually, a reciprocity of trade." Mr. Crockett praised the National Policy, he rightly praised Sir John as a Canadian statesman loyal to Britain and yet Mr. Crockett decries the very thing Sir John declared he hoped to gain from the National Policy. Mr. Crockett also ignored the fact that in 1879 the Conservative party, on regaining power at Ottawa, embodied in its Tariff Act a permanent offer of reciprocity in farm produce, fish and other articles. Mr. Crockett also forgot a third important fact. He forgot that in 1894 Sir John Thompson, then Conservative premier, stated to the House that his government had been endeavoring to reach an agreement with the United States which would render easier the extension of Canada's trade with the republic. He forgot further that in 1894 Hon. Mr. Foster boasted that the Conservative government of that day had gone further toward bringing about reciprocity than the United States cabinet had gone. And Mr. Crockett forgot that the Conservative government of 1894 specifically offered reciprocity in fish and fish products to the United States.

We have drawn attention to these most peculiar lapses of memory on Mr. Crockett's part because he declared, or at all events insinuated, that the present Liberal government by supporting reciprocity is endangering the future of the Empire and is taking action which will lead to the absorption of the Dominion by the United States. Such a position is too absurd for any sensible man to hold for an instant unless he be blinded by party prejudice, for, as the Grain Growers of the west have told Mr. Borden in no uncertain terms, the citizens of Canada do not hold their loyalty to Britain at a dollars'and'cents' valuation. But Mr. Crockett, in his capacity as a public man, has taken this position and, consequently, we draw attention to the fact that if the Liberal government of today is disloyal so, too, were MacDonald and Thompson and Foster and their associates of years ago when they talked and worked to bring about reciprocity.

According to the \$20-a-day sheet Mr. Crockett took up considerable time in picturing the awful results which will follow reciprocity because under treaties completed by Great Britain certain "favored nations" are given the same rights in the Canadian market as the United States will have after the ratification of the agreement now under consideration. He quoted figures to show the extent of the total trade of these several nations and he dwelt upon the way in which he declared, Canadian producers will be driven out of their own market by the shipment of the products of these other countries. Why could not Mr. Crockett have told the whole story? Why was it necessary for him to keep silent as to the most important facts in connection with this side of the reciprocity case? Was he deliberately trying to mislead the people? These "favored nation" countries include Venezuela, Sweden, Spain, Russia, Columbia and Bolivia and in 1910 Canada did not import from any of them a single article mentioned in the proposed agreement with the United States. Switzerland is another of these countries but Canada's imports from that nation are of a kind not affected in any way by the proposed agreement. Denmark, too, is a "favored nation" but though it

ROUSING WELCOME FOR SIR WILFRID LAURIE

Quebec, July 10.—The official welcome home to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, from his labors at the imperial conference and the coronation festivities which took place here this evening, was an imposing affair. Thousands of people thronged the terrace, where the demonstration took place, and the veteran Liberal leader was given an enthusiastic reception. The scene was a remarkable one, the decorations, flags and strings of vari-colored lights, with the masses of people, being most picturesque. Several bands were in attendance and rendered patriotic airs at intervals.

Mayor Drouin presided and seated on the platform with Sir Wilfrid Laurier were a number of members of his cabinet, members of the local cabinet, aldermen and other people of note. The address from the city, which was read by Mayor Drouin, congratulated Sir Wilfrid on his return, and expressed admiration at the brilliant manner in which he had represented Canada at the coronation festivities and the important part which he took in the imperial conference. Nowhere in Canada was this admiration greater than in the old city of Quebec, of which he was one of its representatives. The address then went on to refer to the action of the conference in regard to the treaties of commerce, due to Sir Wilfrid's perseverance. The address stated that Sir Wilfrid's proposition at the conference to institute a thorough investigation into economic conditions throughout the empire had been heartily applauded.

After the reading of the civic address, Mr. Lechance, M.P. for Quebec West, read an address from the Lib-

eral clubs of the city. The bands then played O Canada, and Sir Wilfrid rose to reply. He was greeted with tremendous applause and cheers.

FREE SUBJECTS.

Sir Wilfrid began by remarking that in no place did he feel the enthusiasm of a reception as in the old city of Champlain. To this city was due his political existence, and he was pleased to see the friends who thirty-four years ago had elected him. He had left Canada last May not only to attend the imperial conference, but also the coronation of King George, which had not been an ordinary affair, but would bear fruits in the future. The English people did not change the constitution but preserved it precious and King George commenced his reign in the same manner as did the Norman kings 1,000 years ago. For the first time in the history of nations the laboring class took part in the ceremonies.

"We are British subjects," he declared, "and we are free and prosperous and democracy is more acknowledged under the British flag than under many republics." (Prolonged cheers.)

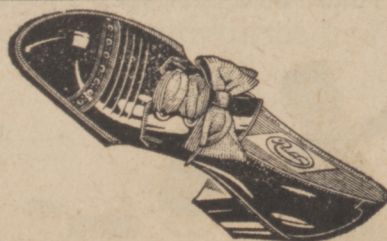
Sir Wilfrid said he had represented Canada at four imperial conferences and on each occasion he was pleased to see that his policy had been approved by the great majority of his fellow citizens. On the last occasion he had met with a double laurel. He had fought for the autonomy of Canadians and he was pleased and he felt sure that true Canadians would be pleased at the success which had attended his efforts.

is a great butter producing country, as Mr. Crockett very carefully pointed out, Canada did not import a single pound of butter from it in 1910. Will the wiping out of a duty lead that country to swamp the Canadian butter market when under a duty Denmark did not send us a single pound? From Austria-Hungary the Dominion in 1910 imported some laces and articles of the kind. The proposed reciprocity agreement does not apply to laces; how does Mr. Crockett expect Austria-Hungary to swamp the Canadian market? There is Japan, but as Sir Wilfrid Laurier well asked in a recent speech: Do we fear that far-off Japan will glut the Canadian market with cereals or butter? Norway, it is true, may gain some slight benefit in its fish trade through reciprocity inasmuch as that country is one of the "favored nations." Argentina, it is also true, may send wheat to Canada, though in 1910 the Dominion did not import from that country a single article affected by the proposed agreement but if Argentina may send Canada wheat may not the Dominion send wheat to Argentina? At first blush, then, Mr. Crockett's words regarding the "favored nations" seem to tell of a very serious condition. When they are examined in the light of the facts they are found to be like most of his words—merely sounds signifying nothing.

To follow Mr. Crockett through all his wanderings would require much more space than the excursion would be worth. Indeed, we have already followed him much farther, very much farther, than it was profitable to go. His speech was made up of the stock arguments which friends of the "interests" have been using at all places on all occasions. It included that pitiable cry: "Let well enough alone. Canada is doing well. Why try to do better?" Heaven save Canada from the adoption of such a cry as part of its national creed. It included the insulting claim that

Mr. J. W. Smith, chairman of the County Board of Health, presided at a Tory meeting at Durham Bridge on Saturday evening and, according to the Tory organ, "delivered a strong anti-reciprocity speech." If his speech was anything like the one he delivered at the recent meeting of the County Council on the smallpox outbreak at St. Mary's, it is safe to say that it did the cause of reciprocity very little harm.

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