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SUNBURY COUNTY MAN WRITES ON RECIPROCITY

Mr. Dow D. Grass of Rusiagornish; Exposes the Folly and Inconsistency of the Tory Position on Reciprocity

To the Editor of The St. John Telegraph:

Sir,—If you are good enough to grant me space in your paper I wish to say a few words on the principal political issue with which the Canadian electorate is confronted today, viz., the reciprocal arrangement with the United States.

It is entirely unnecessary to say, Mr. Editor, that a satisfactory reciprocal agreement has been sought by all governments in Canada, and it is equally unnecessary to state that no previous agreement did more for the commercial advancement of the Dominion of Canada than the pending agreement promises to do, providing it meets the approbation of the Canadian electorate; and I trust I may be pardoned for predicting that strong approval of the electorate will be the happy fate of the arrangement when the voters are called upon to voice their sentiments on the 21st day of September.

We had a reciprocity treaty from 1854 to 1866, negotiated by Lord Elgin, I believe, and at the termination of the treaty the commercial interests of the provinces demanded that the government should employ all possible means towards securing renewal; but overtures which had been made were treated with contempt at Washington, and when Messrs. Galt and Howland (two eminent Canadian statesmen) were sent to Washington to negotiate there with the committee of ways and means their mission was unfortunately a failure.

The failure of the United States to do their part in renewing the treaty was due entirely to American hostility to England and Canada necessarily as a British colony on account of British sympathy for the southern confederacy during the mighty civil war just closed in 1865.

No thinking citizen in either country doubted for a moment that the treaty was highly beneficial from a commercial standpoint.

Sir John A. Macdonald, a man whose memory every true Canadian delights to honor, in a speech delivered in the Canadian Commons on May 3, 1872, said:

"The reciprocity treaty with the United States existed from 1854 to 1866, in which latter year it expired. Great exertions were made by the government of Canada and a great desire was expressed by the parliament and people of Canada for a renewal of that treaty. It was felt to have worked very beneficially for Canada. It was felt to have worked also to the advantage of the United States, and there was a desire and a feeling that those growing interests which had been constantly developing and increasing themselves during the existence of the treaty would be greatly aided if it were renewed and continued. I was a member of the government at that time, with some of my hon. friends who are still my colleagues; and we took every step in our power, we spared no effort, we left no stone unturned in order to gain that object."

During the next few weeks Tory orators will undoubtedly be painting pictures in vivid colors as to the commercial difficulties that will occur

should the reciprocal arrangement be met with the approval of a majority of the voters. Ignoring all history and even great probabilities they will ignominiously endeavor to stifle this reciprocal infant in the very cradle of its existence. They have expressed an eager willingness to shamelessly murder the progeny of great experience and noble patriotic brains without even giving it an opportunity of breathing the breath of life, without even allowing the Canadian people a chance to think and feel (above all, feel) whether or not its existence is healthful, wholesome and beneficial; and I trust that it is no cynical asperity to suggest and hope that it be given a trial—a chance for its life, so to speak, as it can be revised at any time. All that a thorough sophist, a dexterous logician, a timid patriot, or a prophet of evil can possibly array against the arrangement will be brought up and pressed against the great international agreement; but the present administration of Canada are very clearly more than willing to trust its fate in the ballots of the electorate. The government confidently feels that after the agreement has been presented in its true light to the people of Canada and the smoke of battle has cleared away that the statesmen whose intelligence conceived the agreement and realized its commercial necessity will still retain the confidence and respect of a great majority of the electors.

The Conservative party's self-confessed attitude toward reciprocal trade and its general policy (if that word can be applied to anything so vaporish) reminds me very forcibly of an old quack doctor. The quack visited a patient who was very sick and after a careful diagnosis prescribed water gruel and bleeding. He came back the next day and found the patient worse. He said the best treatment was to give him more water gruel, and he bled him again. The next day he came and repeated the dose. The fourth day the patient was dead. The doctor said it was a great shame that he did not get there in time to give him another dose of water gruel and to bleed him once more.

I must confess to you, Mr. Editor, that I have spoken at much greater length than I intended and I desire to thank you most heartily for your generosity and kindness in granting me space in your columns.

Permit me, in conclusion, to say a word in regard to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. No man has ever had more devoted friends and followers both in the Commons and the country at large. Over and over and over again he has carried them forward with him to victory, and I trust, hope and believe that now, as ever, his latest and crowning victory will be the response which the intelligent electorate of Canada will make to the appeal that they should ratify the trade arrangement.

I am, Mr. Editor,

Very sincerely yours,

DOW D. GRASS.

Rusiagornish, Sunbury Co., N.B.
August 2nd, 1911.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND RECIPROCITY

The following standing offer of reciprocity with the United States in natural products was embodied in the National Policy of the Conservatives brought down in Parliament, 1879:

"Any" or all of the following articles, that is to say: animals of all kinds, green fruit, hay, straw, bran, seeds of all kinds, vegetables, including potatoes and other roots, plants, trees and shrubs, coal and coke, salt, hops, wheat, peas and beans, barley, rye, oats, Indian corn, buckwheat and all other grain, flour of wheat and flour of rye, Indian meal and oatmeal and flour of meal of any other grain, butter, cheese, fish, salted or smoked, and lumber, may be imported into Canada, free of duty, or at a less rate of duty than is provided by this Act, upon proclamation of the Governor-in-Council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that similar articles from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty."

MODERN BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA

Denver Col. Aug. 7.—Delegates from many States are arriving in Denver to attend the supreme triennial convention of the Modern Brotherhood of America, which will meet tomorrow for a session of four days.

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 5.—Jas. P. Grace, editor and proprietor of the United Canada, the official Catholic Weekly published at Ottawa stated at the King Edward Hotel, Ottawa, this evening that his paper will no part in the political campaign.

A CANADIAN WHO HAS MADE GOOD

Something About Sir Thomas Tait who Recently Visited Fredericton

With the seal of royal recognition bestowed on his work in Australia, Sir Thomas Tait has returned to Canada. With Lady Tait and daughter he spent the Coronation season in London, where he met many old friends and became marked as a Canadian who has done big things outside of Canada.

"It is thirteen years since our last visit to London, and its immensity, the extent of its traffic both on and underneath the streets seem to strike us more than ever," said Sir Thomas Tait when interviewed in London. "Since leaving Australia in November we have spent a week in the delightful Island of Ceylon, a month in India and three months in Egypt. Everywhere we realized the extent and ramifications of the influence which attaches to the old flag and the benediction of its rule. I think it is only in India, among its teeming population of races which would be flying at each other's throats were it not for the restraining influence of just British rule, that the citizens of the Empire, especially those living in Australia or in our own glorious Dominion, get an adequate idea of what that Empire really means."

"We spent a month in St. Moritz, another in Nice and finished our continental wanderings a couple of weeks ago in Paris. The number of Canadians we came across from the time we entered the Mediterranean was surprising and indicative of the prospects of our country. Now Lady Tait, my daughter and I are eagerly looking forward to the second of July, when we join the Empress of Britain for our journey home, though thanks to the kindness of many friends, we are enjoying every hour of our stay in this wonderful city in this month of exceptional festivities."

Sir Thomas declined to discuss his work in Australia, and said he had made no plans as to his future work, but he does not seem to be the kind of man to be idle. As benefactor of a master of transportation, who brought to success the almost bankrupt railroads of Victoria, Sir Thomas is an observant traveller, and a word let slip here and there, indicated that he will have much of practical interest to tell his former colleagues on the C. P. R. For instance, he is convinced that a much larger amount of the passenger traffic from Australia and New Zealand can be directed to the Canadian route by the operation of an improved service via Suva and Honolulu to Vancouver.

"I am not dwelling so much on the speed question," said Sir Thomas, "though no doubt the present vessels are not up to date in that respect, but, after all, it is comfort that counts most with the bulk of passengers likely to take the trans-Canadian voyage. That Suva and Honolulu have to be 'made' at daylight is a factor in the speed question. Australians and New Zealanders travel in far greater proportionate numbers than do Canadians. You must remember they have not the extent of territory and variety of climate we have in our borders, quite apart from the fact that we can go down to Florida or California almost without changing cars."

Sir Thomas was at Delhi when he accidentally saw the official notice of his Knighthood. He received this mark of honor by letters patent, and consequently has not received the Royal tap on the shoulders which converted Thomas Brock, the sculptor of the Victoria Memorial, into a Knight, a ceremony at which he and Lady Tait were honored guests. As a Canadian who has achieved striking success in other portions of the Empire than his native land, he received, as did Sir Percy Girouard, marked attention in official circles, and, of course, he has been heartily welcomed by Mr. McL. Brown and other former colleagues of the C. P. R.

EARL NELSON 88 YEARS OLD

London, August 7.—Earl Nelson, grand nephew of the famous Nelson, the hero of Trafalgar, received many congratulations today on the occasion of his eighty-eighth birthday anniversary. His Lordship is now the only member of the House of Lords who was a peer during the lifetime of William IV and has the further distinction of being the recipient of one of the only two perpetual pensions in existence in England, the holder of the other being Lord Rodney, a descendant of the celebrated Admiral Sir George Rodney. Lord Nelson is surprisingly vigorous for a man of his years and when he is in town he may be seen almost any afternoon playing billiards at the down town Unionist club.

Miss Stella Jules, of Woodstock, who for the past few weeks has been touring the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, is visiting the Misses Brewer of St. Mary's.

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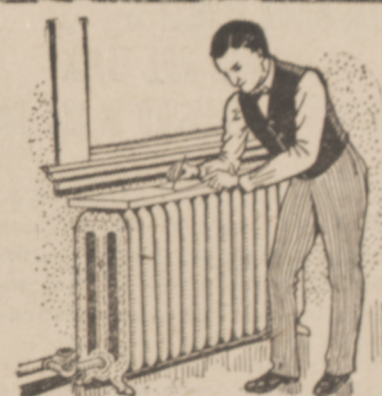
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