

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N.B., August 22, 1911.

THE PRICE OF POTATOES

Our ancient and historic friend, Mr. Pinder, is credited with having made the bald statement at the Aroostook County farmers were selling their potatoes in Carleton County for \$1.25 per barrel. Coming from a man who occupies a representative position in this county, Mr. Pinder's statement would be expected to carry some weight and no doubt many of the delegates in the absence of information to the contrary, accepted it as a fact. Others, perhaps, but probably not a large number, thought it was true because Mr. Pinder said so.

Knowing something of Mr. Pinder's ability to draw the long bow, especially at election times, The Mail called in question his statement and drew his attention to the fact that, as potatoes were selling in Boston at \$1.75 per two bushel bag, the farmers of Aroostook were not foolish enough to send them to Carleton County for \$1.25. Mr. Pinder's statement is entirely disproved by a Fredericton man who spent last week in Presque Isle and other points in Northern Maine. He declared positively that potatoes were then selling at \$2 and \$2.25 per barrel, while a few contracts made last year with parties who had supplied fertilizer to the farmers, were being filled at a slightly lower figure. So much for Mr. Pinder's statement at the Tory convention.

We have before us a copy of the Turf Farm and Home, an agricultural paper published at Fairfield, Me. Here is what it says on the potato outlook:

"It looks very much as if the price of potatoes should run high this year as they have been low the past two years, owing to the small crop both east and west. From Aroostook comes the story of an unusually small yield owing to the extremely hot, dry weather in July. The same story is heard in Central Maine. The report is that a number of large growers in Waldo County will not attempt to dig at all as the crop is a total failure. Word from New York State is of the same tenor."

The above quotation effectively disposes of the Tory campaign yarn that the Maine farmers are compelled to give their potatoes away.

The New York Evening Telegram, in noting the shortage in the American potato crop, says:

"IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO IMPORT POTATOES FROM CANADA and Europe, though the Maine crops may save the situation."

In the light of this information surely the York County farmer who will have potatoes to sell this fall is not going to be so blind to his own interests as to cast his vote against reciprocity and the larger market. They should bear in mind that the loyal Tories who are going about the country talking about annexation are not going to buy the farmers' potatoes.

While on the subject of potatoes it might be well to call attention to an article published in the St. John Standard a few days ago. It was intended to prejudice the potato growers of New Brunswick against reciprocity, but it will certainly have the opposite effect. Statistics were quoted to show that the State of Maine last year produced no less than 27,940,000 bushels of potatoes, and, says the Standard, "New Brunswick's potato crop last year was variously estimated at from 625,000 to 750,000 bushels." In other words, as Senator King pointed out in his able speech on Saturday, the adjoining State of Maine produced potatoes in one year to the value of about



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14,000,000 and New Brunswick, with the fertile soil, produced only \$360,000 worth. What a contrast! What a miserable showing for New Brunswick. The Maine farmers, with the great market of the United States open to them, can produce 28,000,000 bushels of potatoes, while New Brunswick, with its restricted market, can only produce 750,000 bushels. Could any stronger argument be advanced in favor of reciprocity and the larger market? The farmers of New Brunswick are just as intelligent and just as industrious as those of the State of Maine and we do not hesitate to make the prediction that under reciprocity in three years time, this province will be producing just as many potatoes in proportion to its population as the State of Maine is producing. We can raise potatoes more cheaply than they can in Maine and we have the great advantage of water transportation to the New England market.

Is it any wonder that men of the type of Dr. Atherton, who love New Brunswick and want to see it prosper, are advocating reciprocity?

TIME FOR A CHANGE

It has been the curious misfortune of our people as to what method of falsehood or set of falsehoods the organ of the opposition would start in on with reference to York County's future representative. To those who know Dr. Atherton and his sterling character, and who in York does not, it was hard to think of one, but of course the fertile pen of the "Gleaner" type would not think to adopt a decent, manly, honorable, truthful campaign programme so they proceeded to notify the St. John edition with LIE NO. ONE. Accusing Dr. Atherton with "annexation tendencies, et al" and try to make appear that they are not the authors of this report, which was repudiated as soon as possible by the doctor.

It is an open secret that the opposition in York Co., depend on intrigue, slander, falsehood, deceit, muck raking, blackmail bluff, religious prejudice, and any and all kinds of the vilest yarns and reports conceivable in order to get votes. Why do people who call themselves respectable identify themselves with such a party or be influenced by their press? No thinking person in Canada for one moment expects that the Government can be defeated, and with reciprocity with our neighbors as an issue they will be returned much stronger than ever. FOR THE SAKE OF EVERYTHING WE MOST DESIRE LET US GET A REPRESENTATIVE AT OTTAWA WHO WILL GET US SOMETHING, OR IF WE MUST HAVE A TALKING MACHINE, LET US BUY A PHONOGRAPH AND SEND IT TO PARLIAMENT AND THUS SAVE THE COUNTY THE MONEY WASTED BY THIS SCANDAL-MONGER.

WE HAVE THE MAN OF ALL MEN TO REPRESENT US, ONE WHO WILL ACCOMPLISH THINGS, ONE TO BE PROUD OF, AND A MAN OF SUCH A TYPE, THAT WE MAY BE CONFIDENT WILL NOT ARREST THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY BY COUNTERENCING THE METHODS OUR FORMER "REPRESENTATIVE" WHOLLY DEALS IN. JUST THINK SEVEN YEARS AT OTTAWA AND NOT ONE THING SECURED FOR OUR COUNTRY BUT RIDICULE, AND THE PERSONAL ILL WILL OF ALL IN

A VERY MUCH SHORTER
CATECHISM ON RECIPROCITY

Q. What is the meaning of the word reciprocity?

A. It means give and take on a basis of equality.

Q. What does it mean as between nations?

A. It means the exchange of commodities on equal terms.

Q. What does it mean as between Canada and the United States in connection with what is called the Fielding-Taft agreement?

A. It means a lowering in both countries of the tariff duties heretofore collected on many commodities, and the placing upon the free list of a large number of "natural products."

Q. Have both countries made precisely the same reductions in the tariff rates?

A. They have reduced the items in question to the same rate, but this has meant a much greater cut in the case of the United States than Canada, because the American tariff rate was higher in nearly every instance.

Q. How does the question of the agreement now stand in the United States?

A. It is no longer a question there. The reciprocity bill was passed by Congress and Senate by large majorities and was formally signed by the President on July 26.

Q. How does the question stand in Canada?

A. It is awaiting the ratification of the House of Commons.

Q. Why has that ratification not been given?

A. Because the Conservative party in the House have, by obstructive methods, prevented the question from coming to a vote.

Q. Why has this been permitted by a Government which enjoyed a large majority in the chamber?

AUTHORITY.

ARE THE PEOPLE TO BE SUCCESSFULLY FOOLED AGAIN, WELL IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE THE CASE THIS TIME FOR SURE. WITH DR. ATHERTON AT OTTAWA IT IS A SURE BET THAT WE WILL GET MORE THAN OUR SHARE FOR SOME TIME TO COME, FOR THERE IS SEVEN YEARS DEFICIT DUE US, AND WE WILL GET IT SURELY.

In Canada today "declared" the Hon. Harry McLeod at Geary, "home consumption required 85 per cent. of our own produce and the balance found a free market in England. We are surprised that some farmer or farmer's son did not rise in his place and set the Solicitor General right. If the balance of our produce found a free market in England," what has become of the wonderful Cuban market for potatoes that the Hazen government discovered last year. How many Geary farmers are engaged in raising potatoes in the English market.

The Tory organ is already getting panicky. On Saturday it published a portrait of F. J. R. d'Aboix the Tory Candidate in Kent and tried to palm him off for Luther Smith who is contesting Sunbury and Queens in the Tory interest.

The Hon. Harry McLeod told the electors of Geary that he was opposed to reciprocity because it would lower the price of food products. It is dollars to doughnuts that should the Hon. Harry speak in Fredericton during this campaign he will have a different story to tell.

From 1851 to 1861, when we had reciprocity with the United States, the population of New Brunswick increased by 56,157. From 1861 to 1891 when there was no reciprocity, the increase numbered thirty souls.

A. Because there is no provision in the rules of Parliament to enable the Government to prevent deliberate waste of time in this way.

Q. What action has the Government taken in the matter?

A. It has dissolved the Government and brought on a general election.

Q. What does this mean?

A. It means that the question of accepting or rejecting the reciprocity agreement is now up to the voters of Canada.

Q. Reciprocity, then, is the chief issue to be discussed in the present campaign?

A. It is. It is practically the only issue.

Q. Will the discussion proceed upon strictly party lines?

A. No; many Conservatives are in favor of the measure, and some Liberals are against it.

Q. What arguments are used by its opponents?

A. Chiefly two: (1) That reciprocity will lead to annexation, and (2) that it will prove injurious to the business interests of Canada.

Q. As to the first argument, upon what basis does it rest?

A. On the basis that greater freedom of intercourse with our neighbors will tend to weaken our allegiance to Great Britain.

Q. Would this result be profitable if that intercourse should prove unprofitable?

A. No.

Q. It is, then, assumed by its opponents that reciprocity will prove unprofitable to Canada?

A. No; quite the contrary.

Q. Do they allege that Canadians will be disposed toward annexation because they will find reciprocity unprofitable from a business standpoint?

A. That is what they seem to mean.

Q. Is the agreement in form a treaty for a specified term which must be adhered to whether profitable or not?

A. No; it is merely a mutual understanding which either party is at liberty to terminate at any time.

Q. Why, then, should Canadians think of annexation because, upon trial, they were dissatisfied with reciprocity?

A. No reason can be given. If they did not like it, they could repeal it.

Q. Why should they be disposed toward annexation if the agreement proved a great boon to their country?

A. Because annexation would give them American political institutions as well as the American market.

Q. Do they prefer American institutions to their own?

A. Decidedly not.

Q. Why would they change their minds?

A. I do not know.

Q. What is the basis for the second argument, viz., that reciprocity will prove injurious to the business interests of Canada?

A. It is based on the assertion that the great increase in the importation of American goods will seriously injure our domestic manufacturing establishments.

Q. Does the reciprocity agreement provide for a lowering of the Canadian tariff on manufactured goods?

A. No; excepting in the case of agricultural implements and prepared meats.

Q. Are these reductions great?

A. No; very slight.

Q. Are the establishments affected able to stand the reduction?

A. They make millions of profits every year.

Q. Is the reduction likely to hurt them at all?

A. No; free access to the American market will undoubtedly add to their business.

Q. If general manufacturing establishments are not concerned in the proposed reductions of duty at all?

(Continued on page five.)

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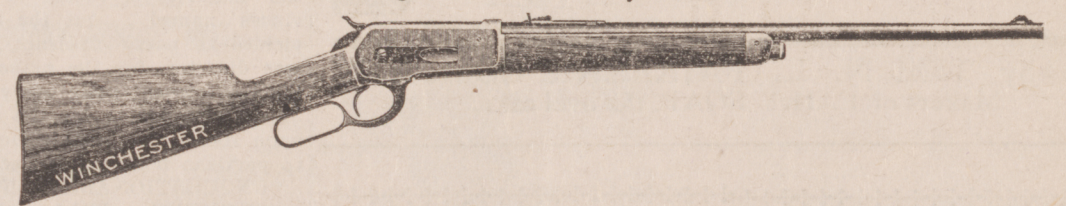
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