

# RECIPROCITY AT A NIGHT SESSION

Debate in the Legislature is  
Advanced a Stage.

MEMBERS ARE WEARIED.

Only a Score Remain When  
House Adjourns.

**Mr. W. Proudfoot Ridicules Hysterical Fears That Annexation Will Follow Reciprocity—Arrangement Will Benefit the Farmers — Six Members Heard, and Debate Still Goes on.**

About a score of members, lounging around in various poses indicating intense weariness, remained to hear the concluding word on reciprocity last night. The debate upon Sir James Whitney's anti-reciprocity resolution was resumed after the Legislature had spent about half an hour at work. It continued until 6 o'clock, when the members retired for a two-hours' recess. A little after 8, when the legislators began to drift back to the Chamber, the debate went on again, and at 10.30 Dr. A. MacKay of North Oxford moved the adjournment.

During the day six members were heard. Mr. W. Proudfoot of Centre Huron opened with a vigorous defence of the reciprocity agreement. He paid special attention to the hysterical fears expressed by the opponents of the agreement and ridiculed the talk of annexation. Mr. Proudfoot declared that reciprocity would benefit the farmers, and the proof of it was the opposition that the agreement was receiving from the farmers of the United States. From the added prosperity of the farmers would come greater wealth to the people of the towns and cities. Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) reiterated the arguments advanced by the Government speakers against the agreement, confining himself largely to the flag-waving. He was followed by Mr. J. W. McCart of Stormont. At the evening session the speakers were Mr. A. H. Musgrove of North Huron, T. R. Mayberry of South Oxford, and Dr. T. S. T. Smelle of Fort William. The debate will be continued to-day.

### Favored the Farmers.

Mr. W. Proudfoot (Centre Huron), resuming the debate on the anti-reciprocity resolution, argued that it was in the interests of the farmers of Canada, from the very fact that American agriculturists oppose it on that ground. He had found no desire for annexation in the United States on the several occasions he had been there. That this had been made a party question he pointed out from the fact that the Manitoba Legislature had passed a resolution against reciprocity by a straight party vote, though he ventured to say they would not dare to go to the country on that question. So it was too in British Columbia. He denied that Canada had got the worst of it in several negotiations with the United States, and claimed she could hold her own in any future dealings.

Though the Ontario Government had spent large sums of money on the development of northern Ontario, yet he pointed out that the Dominion Government was also doing much for that part of this Province. He was surprised at hon. members of the

Government side referring to the Lake Superior Corporation, as that was formed largely of Americans. The pulpwood situation was in Canada's control, and he did not believe there would be any change in the policy of this Government as to preventing pulpwood going over the border to American mills. What would the Conservatives have said if the Government had refused the offers of the United States? They would have said the Government in power at Ottawa was not fit to govern the country. They were only sorry that the overtures had not come when their friends were in power.

### A Second Market.

Mr. Proudfoot referred to the question of a member in the Private Bills Committee yesterday morning: "Why should you not give the farmer two customers for his gas?"—with reference to finding a market in Hamilton for gas produced in Wentworth county. He turned that question back upon them: why not give the Canadian farmer a second market for his produce? Manufacturers did not need to cry out before they were hurt; very few would be hurt, and they only to a very small extent, and that would be for the benefit of those who had been their customers for years. If manufacturers now went into the United States to compete with American makers of implements, it was about time the manufacturers received a little less assistance.

Mr. Henry Eilber (South Huron) asked Mr. Proudfoot, when the latter was speaking about the benefits of reciprocal trade with the United States, what effect reciprocity would have on the Goderich elevator.

"I am glad to be able to answer that question," replied Mr. Proudfoot. "The manager of the Goderich elevator is strongly in favor of it. He thinks it not only will do them no harm, but will do them a great deal of good, and as a stockholder in the Goderich elevator I am very much pleased that he takes that position."

### Sir James Becomes Indignant.

Sir James Whitney took exception to Mr. Proudfoot's statement that Conservative speakers had feared the loyalty of Canadians would suffer by reciprocity. He said no member of this House had said so; he thought no one would be so dull as not to understand that. For reply, Mr. Proudfoot read the words of Sir James' own resolution, and remarked that the honorable gentleman evidently desired to recede from that position. He intended to hold the hon. gentleman down to the language of the resolution, no matter whether he said he (Mr. Proudfoot) was dull or not.

Mr. Proudfoot quoted extensively from the published utterances of leading statesmen and publicists of Great Britain and Canada, Conservative newspapers and members of Parliament, prominent business men and others, in favor of reciprocity. And he quoted the explanation by President Taft himself of his now famous words, "Canada is at the parting of the ways," as being that Canada had a chance to develop more friendly commercial relations. This question was really not one of political relationship, but of pure business. If our allegiance went with our trade, whither had we been going during all the past years while our trade with the United States had been growing by leaps and bounds? Annexation talk, once rife in Canada, had died out altogether.

### Not an "Innocuous" Thing.

Mr. J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) set out to show that the reciprocity pact was not the innocuous thing the member for Centre Huron had declared it to be. He thought the course taken by Premier Asquith in appealing to the country for confirmation of his policy was the wise example for us to follow. Back of this proposal he believed there lay an ulterior motive.

"What insolent audacity," he exclaimed, "to talk of carrying the Stars and Stripes to the North Pole! As well talk of carrying them to the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, or the tower of London, or the tower of St. James itself, for Canada was an integral part of the British Empire!"

The man who first proposed this modern idea of reciprocity, said Mr.