

DEBATE WILL BE FINISHED TO-DAY

Reciprocity Discussion Reaches Final Stage.

TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT.

Hon. A. G. MacKay Will Divide the House.

Labor Member Comes Out in Warm Support of the Reciprocity Agreement—Ridicules Annexation Fairy Stories—Wiping Out of Tariff Will Help Cattle and Hog Industry.

The last word on reciprocity, so far as the Legislature is concerned, will be heard to-day. The debate, which has continued since last Thursday, reached the final lap shortly before 11 o'clock last night, and this afternoon, following Mr. A. E. Fripp, Hon. A. G. MacKay will address the House. The Liberal leader will move an amendment to Sir James Whitney's anti-reciprocity resolution, deprecating the hysterical talk of annexation and affirming the Opposition's approval of the agreement. He will probably be followed by the Prime Minister, who will speak briefly.

There will be no sensational breaking away from party on either side. The Liberals are united in supporting the reciprocity agreement, and the big Government majority will be swung into line without trouble, despite rumors that some of the members do not look upon the "anti" resolution with unmixed favor. The only vote that commands particular interest is that of the independent Labor member, Mr. Allan Studholme. Regardless of the fact that the workingmen in his constituency are said to be opposed to reciprocity, the member for East Hamilton will vote against Sir James and the Government.

Will Do as He Pleases.

Mr. Studholme spoke for several hours last night approving, as a workman, of the agreement.

"You may say," he said, "that I will never come back here for taking this stand, but I tell you that if I knew I would never get another vote I would still do it."

Some Plain, Hard Facts.

For the first time since the debate began the House was treated to an address that was principally straight, unanswerable facts. It came from Mr. J. Kohler of Haldimand, a practical cattleman. He spoke from the standpoint of the farmer, and produced market reports showing conclusively the great benefit that would accrue to Canadian cattle and hog raisers by a free entry into the United States cattle markets and their vastly higher prices.

The other speakers yesterday were Dr. A. MacKay, North Oxford; Dr. D. Jamieson, South Grey; Mr. A. H. Musgrove, North Huron; Mr. Sam. Clarke, Northumberland; and Mr. Evan Fraser, Welland.

No Mandate Was Necessary.

Dr. A. MacKay of North Oxford resumed the debate. In his opening remarks Dr. MacKay took up the argument of the opponents of reciprocity that the Federal Government had re-

ceived no mandate from the people to enter into an agreement with the United States. He pointed out that the people in electing the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given expression to their confidence, and that no other mandate was necessary. He referred to a number of important measures which the former Conservative Government at Ottawa had put through without giving the people a voice in any of them.

Brantford Member Opposed.

Mr. W. S. Brewster, South Brant, declared that he spoke as a representative of a district that was vitally interested in the reciprocity agreement. He described the prosperity of Brantford as a result of the development of the agricultural machinery industry, and held that this industry was endangered by reciprocity.

"We have never said that the Liberals were disloyal," continued Mr. Brewster; "the members on the Opposition side of the House are just as loyal as we are. But we do say that the policy they are advocating would lead Canada away from the motherland, and that is something they should not do. I appeal to you," he said, turning to the Liberal members, "to give your loyal support to stopping this now, and not let it get any farther."

The Case for the Farmers.

One of the best contributions to the debate up to the present came from Mr. J. Kohler (Haldimand), who followed Mr. Brewster. Mr. Kohler devoted himself entirely to the reciprocity agreement as it affected the farmers, and made out an exceptionally strong case. Fortified by an imposing mass of statistics, he proved conclusively that the removal of the duties on cattle and hogs will make for a splendid development in the live stock industry.

Mr. Kohler quoted the prices received for cattle and hogs on the Toronto market during the past few years, and compared them with those on the Buffalo market, showing a difference in favor of the latter market ranging from 25 cents to one dollar a hundredweight. Hogs for the Toronto market had to be fattened almost in a mould, so particular were the buyers here. If they were the least bit heavier than the buyers wanted they were refused, except at a lower weight as "heavies." For the Buffalo market the farmer could fatten his hogs as he desired and secure a good price for them.

Dr. D. Jamieson (South Grey) confessed that he had at first thought this trade arrangement a good one, but he had changed his mind. He said the Buffalo and Chicago markets were rather speculative, but that in Toronto was more stable. The prices of articles in common use on the artisan's table were higher in Toronto than in New York.

No Fear for Loyalty.

As to the loyalty cry, Dr. Jamieson declared that he did not look at it as seriously as some of the gentlemen on his side of the House. "A dozen such arrangements as this," he said, "are not going to interfere with the loyalty of the Canadian people."

Many Thought the Same.

Mr. Sam Clarke (Northumberland) thought the proposed agreement appealed favorably to sixty or seventy-five per cent. of the honorable members of the House in the same way as to the hon. member for South Grey when he considered it at first, before the party lash was cracked over him. But it was marvellous what literature they got, and what associations they made, which changed their minds. Their constituents might say: "You were right once; why didn't you remain right?"

If any people in Canada needed a sop, Mr. Clarke thought it was those of the west. The cause of all the trouble in Toronto, and of all the trouble of this Government, as of the member for South Brant (Mr. Brewster), and of Mr. Lloyd Harris, was this idea of the "thin end of the wedge."

Who Used the Binders?

It was only a matter of two and a half per cent. on one branch and five