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Daily Whig

NOTICE TO THE MUGWUMPS.

A straw, and a great big one, and showing how public feeling is running upon the trade agreement in the west. Mr. Haultain, the conservative leader of the opposition in the Saskatchewan legislature, and the man who hopes some day to be at the head of the local government, is out strongly for reciprocity. And mark the sentence with which he closed an eloquent speech the delivery of which occupied an hour: "We, out here," he said, "are just as able as the magnates in the east to decide what is patriotic and what is unpatriotic. I am not prepared to sit at the feet of any of these Gamaliels and study loyalty."

THE AUDACIOUS BLACKSTOCK. Some days ago, in the commons, Mr. Fielding made a member of the opposition recent who charged that he favoured annexation or had any time advocated it. Still Mr. Blackstock in Toronto, at the meeting at which no supporter of reciprocity or natural products was allowed to speak, charged that the finance minister, while premier of Nova Scotia, had "supported a motion to break up the union." Does political spleen, enmity, or passion warrant a man in repeating an untruth? Not recounted?

Mr. Fielding could not recede from and repeat of a position he had never taken. The repentant in this case should be Mr. Blackstock, but, alas, he is one of the reckless, and not repenting, kind. Twice he has essayed to break his way into parliament, and twice he has been defeated. The people seem to know him.

REGISTERING A PROTEST.

At the mass meeting in Toronto, called to denounce the trade agreement, with all those who differed from the programme forbidden an opportunity to express an opinion, there were evidences of disapproval. The conduct of those who dissented from the statements of the speaker were referred to by Sir Mortimer Clark, in a distasteful and discreditable. He was chairman, however, of this packed convocation—the public meeting where public opinion could not be expressed—and he permitted Mr. Blackstock to speak of the premier of Canada, and his finance minister, as conspirators, and of Sir Wilfrid as the great betrayer. The meeting, by the way, was organized and directed by the liberal insurgents, under Mr. Lash, and neither he nor Sir Mortimer Clark nor any of those associated with them thought it worth their while to dissent from the course in which the evening was assailed of the ministers engaged. The people in the audience had great reason to register their protest.

DRAWING THE CAPITAL

The reciprocity movement does not destroy the optimism of some people. The British Columbia Steel Corporation has been chartered by the federal government, and will put up a \$10,000,000 plant in Vancouver; and the American Car and Foundry company, which is one of the richest corporations in the United States, will erect a plant adjoining the steel works. The two concerns will employ 5,000 men.

The conclusion follows—that Canada is undergoing a tremendous development, and American capital is prepared to follow it. This is a direct disappointment to certain ones across the way, and a few experiences like this may do much to defeat the reciprocity agreement, not only in the regular session of congress but in the special session as well. Hon. C. M. Pepper was the chief expert of the American government in the negotiations with the Canadian ministers for the reciprocity agreement, has handed out and published in the Christian Herald, of New York, a peculiar statement. He dwells upon the great growth of Canadian population, upon the fact that it may soon be 10,000,000 or 15,000,000, and upon the market which it affords for "many manufactured articles of the United States, and especially for agricultural implements of all kinds."

Mr. Pepper added that by securing "material reductions on these manufacturing and on numerous other manufactures, the industries of the United States and the wage-earners of mills and factories are benefitted." He has been calculating upon results that are not likely to come to pass. Canada is drawing the people, the cap-

italists as well as laborers, and it will continue to draw them in any event.

CAN'T DODGE THE ISSUE.

The one and only vote which has been taken upon the trade agreement has not indicated, perhaps, where some of the members stand upon the issue itself. It simply showed that the liberals, with certain notable exceptions, were disposed to stand by the proposition, and on its merits. The conservatives were whipped into line, and in a desperate effort to get rid of the subject. There was nothing in the action of congress to warrant the movement for a shelving of reciprocity in Canada—except political expediency. Mr. Borden has made it a party question, and the party has been dragged into an indirect attack on reciprocity. The house, under the call of the government, has met that blundering policy in the proper spirit. It has refused to adopt subterfuge in connection with a great and serious question.

Thus one sees the point of that argument of Prof. Shortt, before the Canadian Club, that there is a marked difference between the positions of the American and Canadian governments on the trade agreement. Congress has adjourned without acting upon it, though the president was most urgent in his appeals respecting it, and the government was not affected. Were the government of Canada defeated in its plans, were the resolution of Mr. Fielding respecting the agreement, rejected, there would be no alternative but to resign. The motion of Mr. Borden, then, that the trade agreement be set aside until it had been disposed of by congress, was one of want of confidence, and for it all the members of the opposition voted, and with them two of the three alleged bolters.

Now the situation becomes clearer. Each member of the house will vote according to his own individual or personal sense of duty. He may vote party before public interest, and in that way defy or antagonize the opinion of his constituents. Mr. Sifton has admitted that he is not in accord with the people of Brandon on the question, and the liberal party of Brandon has made it apparent—that he does not represent them in his present attitude. How many others there are who are out with their constituents is not yet apparent. Only a few members of the opposition have spoken. It was intimated a while ago that most of them would define their views, but as time goes on there is not so much anxiety on the part of some of them to talk. But talk some of them must, and vote.

SUMMING UP THE SITUATION.

The Canadian Gazette, published in London, discusses the effect of the reciprocity agreement upon English interests and prices.

Will Canadian products, especially the products of the farm, find a ready or better sale in the United States than in England and will prices in Britain rise? Is this a good reason why the trade agreement should not be carried out—that the cost of living will be higher in the old land? Some years ago the British farmers stood behind the London Board of Trade and demanded that the meat market should be protected by a regulation that operated against Canadian cattle exportation. Later they favoured tariff reform so that British farm products would not be brought into competition with foreign products under free trade. If the British farmers were selfish enough to think only of themselves, and without any special regard for the imperial policy of which one hears so much in the colonies Canadian farmers may be excused if they are swept along with that which will be of benefit to themselves.

The British government, conservative and liberal, have not been moved to experiment with any plan of imperial trade preference by which the trade relations of the mother country and the colonies would be specially protected and developed. No British government has deemed it practicable, and in the old land there are some very discerning and clever politicians.

The Canadian preference policy may be affected by the agreement. The probability is that it will be increased so as to give the British people an advantage in any event over the Americans.

The British unionist policy, of reciprocal preference, may now be of no avail. Our contemporary regards the United Kingdom as the greatest market for Canada's food stuffs and raw material, and a market of great value for Canadian manufactures. It may be affected, but it will not be destroyed. Tariff reform, too, is considerable of a fake. Chamberlain put some life into it while he was an active force in political life. It has been dead of late; indeed Balfour's abandonment of it in the last election was its death blow.

Will reciprocity lead to commercial union? The politicians say so, and certain capitalists who invest in Can-

The county council will probably get a gait on in providing for the county students now that its members know where the board of education stands.

ada's productive capacity may favour it, but the sound sense of the masses is against such a conclusion.

Are British capitalists likely to find a less acceptable and secure field for investment in consequence of the agreement? British financiers, who have spoken reply in the negative, and the houses which have negotiated the loan of many many millions for Canadian enterprise show no anxiety. "If," says the Canadian Gazette, reciprocity increases Canada's prosperity it must increase Canada's magnetism for the British investor, and that seems to be a very sensible conclusion.

Finally as to British connection. Is it endangered? The Gazette pools the idea. Canada's development as a nation has changed her outlook, and, true to the premier's prophecy, will fulfil a higher destiny than absorption in the United States could give her. Hon. Philander C. Knox, the secretary of state in Mr. Taft's government, put the issue clearly when he said, in an address in Chicago, recently: "There is not the slightest probability that this racial and moral union will involve any political change or annexation or absorption. It is an ethnological fact that political units of the English-speaking people never lose their autonomy."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Van Horn attack on reciprocity is at last understood. Mr. Hill, the great American railway man, favours the trade agreement, and that is enough. He is Sir William's bete noir.

A safe inner harbour, for winter anchorage, with facilities for repairs and overhauling to boats and barges, should make Kingston a port of advantage. The cost of a swing bridge is only the beginning of works of great civic value.

Men, even members of the council, may err in judgment, may miscalculate the cost of public works, and still be neither knaves nor fools. The council is not the worse of a little caustic criticism, but it will not be improved by indiscriminate abuse.

The opposition at Ottawa is represented as disheartened over the reciprocity case. If they had to begin the campaign over again they would have it different. In Saskatchewan the legislature unanimously endorsed the trade agreement. A business, not a political, matter, Ottawa can learn something from Regina.

"The government is afraid of the people's verdict," is the heading of the St. Thomas Times to the telegram announcing the government's intention of continuing the discussion of the trade agreement until the house is ready to vote on it. The only dodgers are the members of the opposition. How they would like to bury the whole business?

The Canadian Municipal Journal suggests that the government appeal to the people on the reciprocity question. Why should it? Sir John Macdonald once appealed for the power to negotiate a reciprocity treaty, and got it, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier is now giving the people what no other premier has been able to secure from the American government.

According to Mr. Harris, the farmers do not own or rule the country. Neither do the dissidents of Toronto, who called a public meeting and refused to let any one speak who had not the imprimatur of the anti-reciprocity party. The farmers are getting a pointer.

Mr. Harris, M.P., voted with the conservatives, on the motion to delay the trade agreement, and Mr. Germain, M.P., said he would have voted the same way had he been present. But both attended the Thursday caucus of the party on the trade agreement. The alleged bolt does not seem to have taken them into the opposition.

The condition of education in Northern Frontenas, according to the report of Inspector Reid, is deplorable. There are not enough schools, and for what schools there are qualified teachers cannot be found. A continuation class at Sharbot Lake, starved financially, and a high school at Sydenham which is unequal to requirements, will not help the public school children of Northern Frontenas.

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J. M. WALLACE, BROKER, TORONTO. Phone Main 1944-5.

A Job at Sir James. Woodstock Review. The Ontario government are pressing work of its own that ought to be attended to that it must waste valuable time discussing stale platitudes and mournful prophecies under the pretence of attacking the reciprocity agreement? What about Northern Ontario and its pressing needs? What about agricultural conditions in Old Ontario? What about the educational problems of the province? One might think that even under those few heads, and there are others, enough could be found to keep a government that was really in earnest and competent busy during a session and save it from the temptation of going out on the stump. The Whig government has done some things very well; it has still a lot left undone. There are problems in both Old Ontario and New Ontario which might appeal to the patriotism and tax the energies of even Premier Whitney and his colleagues. Is Premier Whitney seeking to draw attention away from his own troubles by dragging in an outside issue like reciprocity? It looks that way.

The Cynical Philosopher. The Smart set. A woman in the case may be all right; it is when there are two that there is likely to be trouble. When a woman dresses to please the men, she doesn't have much success with the one who is paying for it. A woman stops telling her age as soon as age begins telling on her. A man may smile and smile and be a villain—or so to a simple idiot. All flowers bloom in the conservatory except the wallflower.

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Dr. W. F. Grenfell, has reached New York and will make a tour in Canada and the United States before he returns to Labrador in May, when the ice pack opens.

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Suppressing Public Opinion. The movement against reciprocity is seriously weakened by the attitude now disclosed. It becomes, not an appeal for consideration and judgment, but an attempt to frighten the government and parliament by noise and by a show of strength. Parliament itself is surely a better forum for discussion than a one-sided public meeting. In parliament every side of the case is presented, under conditions which guarantee a fair hearing, with ample time and without clamor. The discussion has now been proceeding in that forum for six weeks, and may proceed for several weeks more. At every stage of the progress of the bill there are fresh opportunities for making and answering objections. That is a far better test of the merits of the agreement than a mass meeting, or a series of mass meetings, in which everything that might tell in favor of the agreement is rigorously excluded.

An Absent-Minded Man. Philadelphia Times. A professor in the university of Pennsylvania is exceedingly absent-minded. One evening last week he was starting to the theatre with his wife when she chanced to look at his necktie and decided that she didn't like it. "Won't you go upstairs and put on another tie?" she asked. "We have five minutes or so to spare." The professor went obediently to his room, but when the five minutes passed he had not returned. His wife waited for ten minutes, fifteen, twenty. Then she went up to see what was wrong. The professor was in bed, the lights out, the windows open for the night, his clothes in orderly piles in their accustomed place. The force of habit had been too strong for the absent-minded man. He had taken off his necktie and had followed the usual programme for the night.

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