

### RIGHT IN PRINCIPLE

#### A WRITER GIVES VIEWS ON RECIPROCIITY.

##### No Place in Canada Would Benefit More With It Than the Kingston District.

Kingston, April 19.—(To the Editor): "What do you think of this reciprocity pact?" is a question asked a good many times lately. A correspondent in the Whig, signed "S. A.," gives his views, and as some have given me credit for the production I wish to say I am not the author, but with your permission, Mr. Editor, I will say a word or two on the subject. Reciprocity is an economic question, but not a very radical one. It does not go to the roots of the economic ills of society.

Society is a most complex organization, and at present it is very poorly organized along economic lines, consequently it is most difficult to determine, with any degree of exactness, what effect a measure of freer trade would have on the different classes of the country. But if there is a country in the world that would benefit, on the whole, by free trade in natural products, that country is Canada. Moreover, there has been no time in the history of the country when it was so necessary to provide for more markets and freer trade relations. The natural products of Canada are going to increase enormously during the next few years, and in greater proportion to population than has ever been the case, probably, in the history of any other country in the world. It is all well enough to talk about "home markets," but the exportable surplus of agricultural products is increasing in much greater ratio than the home consumption, and if we do not get more markets and a freer outlet prices will fall, production be curtailed, and not only the agricultural industry suffer but all other interests as well. "When the farmer prospers," every body prospers." This is especially true in Canada where one-half of the entire population is engaged in agriculture.

If we want to make of Canada a great and prosperous country, her people patriotic, happy and contented, we must encourage agriculture and increase the agricultural community. The more profitable we can make farming the more people will seek the soil as a means of livelihood. The farmer is not only a producer, but he is a consumer, and the more prosperous he becomes the greater his purchasing power. His augmented income would not go to merely increase his bank account, but to buy more and better machinery, in short, more manufactured products of all kinds. Thus, the manufacturer and the merchant would be benefited, and indirectly the wage-earner. Some fear that the cost of living will be increased by the increase in the price of foods, and that this will bear heavily on those who have nothing to sell but their labor. It does not necessarily follow that the farmer gets better prices for his products under reciprocity that the consumer will have to pay more for them. This is the question that bothers not only the ordinary layman but some political economists as well. In fact, it is the crux of the whole matter, and if I can aid in clearing up the difficulty in the minds of your thoughtful readers this letter will not be written in vain. Under systems of "protection," so-called, you know, combines and monopolies flourish and the middlemen get the best of the deal. It has been estimated by statisticians that the farmers in the United States get only forty per cent. of the price paid by the consumers. The middlemen in that highly "protected" country get the balance, sixty per cent. The great disparity between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays is due to tariff obstructions which facilitate the forcing of trade into monopolistic channels.

Now, there is nothing like free trade to break up combines, and eliminate some of the useless middlemen who are only parasites on the economic body. Monopolists know that reciprocity will give them a blow in the region of the solar plexus. This is why they fight it so hard, and are constantly on the offensive. The disparity between

what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays may not be so great in Canada, on the whole, as it is in the United States, but there are many ways through tariff obstructions and combines that both producers and consumers of natural products are "skinned." The farmers of Canada need to take a leaf out of the book of Denmark. There the farmers co-operate in marketing their products and save the commissions of many middlemen. There is no doubt about the United States being a good market for many of our agricultural products, and it is a market that will increase in absorbing power from year to year. And this northern country of ours will increasingly require more and more of the products of that southern climate. The natural lines of trade in natural products are not from west to east but from north to south. They are not lines of latitude, but lines of longitude. Man in his perversity is for ever obstructing the natural order, and when he suffers he wonders what is wrong.

In 1901 the United States exported forty-one per cent. of their total product of wheat. In 1909 the export fell to seventeen per cent. and the proportion required for home consumption increased from fifty-nine per cent. to eighty-three per cent. The time is not far distant when the United States will be a wheat-importing country, and the Canadian provinces of the west will have a market at their very doors for some of their immense surplus wheat. Mr. Whyte, vice-president of the C.P.R., predicts that Saskatchewan alone, in a period of ten years, will produce more than three times enough wheat to supply Britain, and would still have enough left to supply the home market of Saskatchewan.

Leaving the west and coming nearer home, I believe there is no place in Canada that would benefit more from the Kingston district, from Belleville to Brockville, by reciprocity. Hay, barley, dairy products, fowl, potatoes, etc., all would bring better prices, and have a steadier market. The increased market for these products would stimulate increased production, and even if our farmers did not receive more for an article, if they had a market for it, they would produce more and increase their income not at the expense of the home consumer, but through the freer trade relations with the teeming millions on our border.

There is no more profitable crop to raise than potatoes if a steady market at fair prices can be obtained. This district is well adapted to the crop, but the production is limited to the local market, and the prices are very unsteady. Some years when there is a good crop or a little over production the price is very low, then the incentive to raise potatoes is lessened, and the next year the crop is short and prices high, whereas if the American market were open, a more ready sale for the product would be assured, more would be produced and prices would be more regular which would be better for both producer and home consumer.

The state of New York right at our door, with a greater population than the whole of Canada, does not raise enough potatoes for her own consumption, and would be glad to get some of our surplus. This, to my mind, is how reciprocity with our neighbors would work out, not only with potatoes, but with many other products. There are many views of this question in one letter to the press, but in conclusion let me say I believe in reciprocity, because it is right in principle. I believe in reciprocity with our neighbors to the south, because it is trading on natural lines, as I have pointed out. I believe it will help agriculture in this country, stimulate production, but more people on the soil, help in preventing congestion in the cities, give a better market, not only for producers of natural products but for those who have nothing to sell but their labour, and who bring a greater income to the farmer it will not necessarily increase the cost of living to the workman, but on the contrary, might easily lessen it. I believe that reciprocity instead of leading to annexation, will strengthen the bonds of friendship between Canada and the United States, and remove us farther than ever from the possibility of such a thing. I believe that tariff walls are sources of friction between nations and their removal will lessen the chances of war, and help to hasten the time when war will be no more.—S. A. AYKROYD.

#### Immortality in Public Schools.

The Globe.  
Dr. White, of Lindsay, president of the School Trustees' Association, in his annual address, yesterday, strongly criticized the public schools for failing to help public morals and public health. He said:

"The schools are not the aid to public morals that they should be. Immortality is more prevalent in the schools, and consequently out of the schools, than it ought to be, and the time for education in this regard is not fully taken advantage of."  
"The school, too, is not the aid to public health it ought to be. Teachers do not know enough about these matters, or, if they do know, they do not impart it to the young mind when it is most likely to receive and assimilate it."

Dr. White said further:  
"I would like to say that the scarcity of male teachers in public schools is not alone due to insufficient remuneration, but also to the fact that the teachers' work lacks in breadth and interest to such an extent as to make life too monotonous to be endured."

#### Nokomis, Saskatchewan.

Nokomis, Sask., the commercial and railway centre of the Last Mountain valley district, is one of the substantial new towns on the land of the Grand Trunk Pacific, situated in the heart of a rich agricultural district at the junction of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Pacific's Winnipeg-Saskatoon main line. It has great advantages over other points. And now comes the Canadian Northern, according to their latest folder with a line from Quill Lake country, crossing the Grand Trunk Pacific at Nokomis, then leading south-west by the Last Mountain lake in the direction of Calgary. With three railways at the age of five years, Nokomis certainly has a good start in life.



A SCENE FROM "THE KISSING GIRL," THE NEW VIENNESE COMIC OPERA, AT THE GRAND ON MONDAY, APRIL 24TH.

#### THINGS THEATRICAL.

##### Notes About Plays, Players and Playhouses.

Adelle Ritchie is to appear in London. Lulu Glaser will be her own manager next season in a new musical play.

Helena Frederick will appear in the one-act romantic opera entitled "Gypsy Love." Edmund Breece is to star next season under the direction and management of Joseph Weber in a play entitled "The Decision," written by a Philadelphia minister.

J. M. Barris, it is announced, is at work on a new play to be produced next season by Maudie Adams. Mme. Duse is to return next season for engagements in New York, City and Chicago. It is not thought that she will visit any other city.

Frank Pixley and Gustav Liders are working on another musical comedy. Mr. Pixley is expected to be held in reserve or else turned over to another of the Liebler & Co. feminine stars.

Margaret Hllington, whose "The Encounter" was a dire failure, is to star in "Mrs. Maxwell's Mistake," a play by Eugene Walter, author of "The Ladies' Way."

May Yobe, whose matrimonial adventures were the talk of Europe and America a few years ago, is again on the stage. Her skit refers indirectly to her own checkered career.

"Joseph and His Brethren" is the name of a new allegorical comedy by Louis N. Parker. His present plan is to hold it in reserve for George C. Tyler's first season as director of the New Theatre, New York city.

Miss Viola Allen is to have a new comedy by the author of "Diarrhea." The play which has been written for her by Israel Zangwill is to be held in reserve or else turned over to another of the Liebler & Co. feminine stars.

Charles J. Ross is seriously considering the establishment of a theatre in New York City, where new vaudeville acts and sketches may be tried out for the consideration of managers, and where players and plays will thus have a chance of practically demonstrating their value.

Mme. Simone, who comes next season to act in English, will have two of the Bernstein plays in her repertoire. "The Thief," which will be her first offering in each city visited, and the one known in French as "Le Bercail," which is now being acted elsewhere in English by Miss Olga Netherstone, as "The Redemption of Evelyn Vandres."

Comtesse Collier has received a flattering offer from Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree to play the leading feminine roles in his Shakespearean revivals this spring. Her acceptance of the offer depends upon whether the run of "Paris," in which she is playing the title role, is cut short by the warm weather. Miss Collier is the wife of Julian L'Estrange, the clever leading

man for Billie Burke at the Princess Theatre.

Charles Cartright hopes to appear next season in the United States in his own play, which is based upon Dickens's "David Copperfield." His Daniel Pagotto, in this dramatization has made a great hit in London, where Mr. Cartright acted in the play through a long run in the Adelphi theatre.

The New Theatre, in New York, has been leased to the Liebler company at a rent said to be \$75,000 a year and twenty per cent. of the profits. The first production to be made there will be "The Garden of Allah," on an elaborate scale. The lease is to be for a short time only, as the founders of the theatre contemplate giving grand opera there in a few seasons.

#### The Last Straw.

Harpers Weekly.  
Edith J. Leonard Levy, of Pittsburgh, in his famous lecture, "The Wandering Jew," tells a joke as an illustration of the divorce habit. Here is the joke.

"Judge, I want a divorce from my wife."  
"Well, upon what grounds do you seek a divorce?" questioned the judge.

"To begin with, Judge, my wife ran away with a suffragette."  
"I do not consider that sufficient grounds for a divorce," the judge huffed in.

"Well, Judge, I don't mind getting up making the fires, cooking breakfast and sweeping the floors, but when it comes to putting pink ribbon in my nightgown to fool the baby, that's where things don't go, and I want a divorce."

#### Keen Interest.

Philadelphia Ledger.  
A West Philadelphia woman, who spent last summer in England, recalls a pleasing experience. "We were taking a ride on one of those 'swinging London' automobiles," she said, "and there was a party of tourists aboard. They were Americans, of course, and they were taking the greatest interest in everything they saw from the top of the big motor bus. As the automobile rolled out of Hyde Park and started in the direction of Piccadilly, the guide pointed to a big old house, surrounded by a high brick wall and shouted through his megaphone: 'That,' he said, 'is the town residence of the Duke of C—, one of our largest landed proprietors. A pretty girl on the second seat—she was about seventeen, and it was obviously her first trip abroad—looked up in sudden enthusiasm. 'Oh!' she cried, 'who landed him?'"

In this age of business and progress the chronic story teller is anything but welcome.

An elastic memory is quite convenient for those who are inclined to be dishonest.



VIOLET HAT AND WRAP FOR EASTER WEEK WEDDING. Violet is extremely fashionable this spring and many of the handsomest gowns and wraps, now in the modistes' hands, but scheduled to appear later at Easter week affairs, are in shades of lavender, amethyst, pistachio and other gradations of the violet hue. This charming wrap of violet satin meteor is richly trimmed by the embroideries in self color in a curious, weaving stitch, the motif being outlined with white beads. The tassels are of violet chenille and white beads. The pretty hat, typical of a very popular style this season, has a crown covered with violets and a rolled-back brim of violet on which is tied a pert little bow of lighter velvet ribbon.

#### No Need for Worry.

Ladies Home Journal.  
Winston Churchill, the young English statesman, once began to raise a moustache, and while it was still in the budding stage he was asked to a dinner party to take out to dinner an English girl who had decided opposing political views.

"I am sorry," said Mr. Churchill, "we cannot agree on politics."  
"No, we can't," rejoined the girl, "for to be frank with you, I like your politics about as little as I do your moustache."  
"Well," replied Mr. Churchill, "remember that you are not really likely to come into contact with either."

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