

# The Commoner.

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## Reciprocity Defeated—Some of the Causes

The overthrow of the liberal government in Canada on the reciprocity issue ends the hope of the treaty at this time and probably for years. The natural result of the rejection by Canada of the overtures made by the United States will be an increase in the tariff in Canada and a disinclination on the part of the United States to take up the subject of reciprocity again soon. It is, considering all that has occurred, unfortunate for two reasons that the subject was brought forward:

In the first place it has given protectionists of Canada a chance to appeal to any anti-American prejudice that exists there—and it must be admitted that there is such prejudice. It is greater in quantity and more intense than was supposed, has been studiously fanned for partisan purposes until it has developed into a flame which it will require time to extinguish.

Unless there IS a real and active feeling against the people of the United States it is difficult to understand how the people of Canada could have attached as much importance as they did to Speaker Clark's declaration in favor of annexation. He said, in supporting the reciprocity measure: "I am in favor of the reciprocity treaty because I hope to see the day when the American flag will float over every square foot of the British possessions clear to the north pole."

This was a very indiscreet utterance for one occupying a position of authority and was at once condemned by the friends of reciprocity in Canada, and it was kept before the people of the dominion.

A few American papers were unwise enough to advocate annexation—some may have done so with the hope of defeating reciprocity, and all such editorials were reproduced.

President Taft's speeches were construed as reflecting upon Canadian attachment to Great Britain. The cartoons represented the president as trying to force the American flag down the throats of the Canadians. The cartoons of the president were anything but respectful and the language employed in denouncing him was worse than the cartoons.

In this issue will be found an attack, based on the affidavit of "one of the most prominent citizens of Montreal" (name not given.) This appeared in the Ottawa Journal, published at the capital, and was reproduced by the conservative papers throughout the country.

In this issue will also be found a poetic appeal published by conservative papers.

The protected manufacturers used the same coercion which has been so successfully employed in the United States.

The St. John Telegram, the morning of the election, published the following:

### WARNING TO ALL VOTERS!

With the idea of intimidating voters in their employ, members of conservative business houses in this city yesterday circulated personally among their men the following infamous circular, supplied from Tory headquarters in Toronto and printed in black type:

"This Firm is Opposed to Reciprocity or any measure that would injure British Connection or the Industries and Farming Interests of Canada."

Men of St. John, this sort of thing should be resented at the polls.

Every man's vote is his own sacred right and property. Be men! Vote your own way! Do not be intimidated in exercising the sacred right of manhood suffrage.

The second reason for regretting that the reciprocity agreement was brought forward (now that it has failed) is that it turned attention away from the real reason for tariff reduction and laid emphasis upon the idea that a tariff tax hurts the FOREIGNER instead of the consumer at home.

In the discussion on both sides of the line the question seemed to be "which gets the most benefit from the reductions made by the other?" The insurgents opposed the treaty on the ground that we were giving Canada more than we were getting—at least that the farmers were, and the Canadians opposed it on the ground that they were getting the worst of the trade. Even the fact that the United States ratified the agreement was urged as proof that Canada would lose more than she gained.

(See argument published in the St. John Globe on election day, reproduced on another page.)

Whenever a reciprocity agreement is proposed the balancing of benefits is necessarily the paramount question. The democrats favored the Taft-Laurier agreement BECAUSE IT MADE A BEGINNING AT TARIFF REDUCTION.

Now that it has been rejected it is the part of wisdom to proceed with tariff reduction FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR OWN PEOPLE without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation.

Protectionists in this country will use Canada's action as an excuse for opposing reductions but democrats will not, out of spite, permit continued extortion by the tariff barons of this country merely because the tariff barons of Canada are to be permitted to continue their impositions on our northern neighbors.

### A CAMPAIGN POEM—"THE UNCROWNING OF CANADA"

Lord God of our fathers be with us, rise up at Thy people's cry,  
For blindness has stricken our rulers, and the fate of our land draws nigh.  
Rise up, lest we falter, and save us; they have put a strange song in our mouth—  
For our rulers would barter our birthright for the gold of the Kings of the South.

Thou hast given us long, deep forests to guard with their music and dreams,  
The milk-white snows of the winter, which water our land with their streams;  
Thou hast given us prairie empires whose boundaries pillow the stars,  
Thou hast given us mountain ranges—with our hands we have broken their bars.

Thou hast crowned us with wealth and dominion; we have girded the sea to the sea  
As a potter would fashion a vessel we are molding the nation to be.  
The centuries open before us, East and West are the doors for our feet,  
And the smile of Thy favor is on us—the name of our country is sweet.

Begotten of free-born peoples, lords of the land and the flood,  
We have mingled our blood in battles and sealed our charter with blood;  
Who are we, then, to squander our kingship for the lure of an alien land?

To bring them our loaves and our fishes, and bow ourselves under their hand?

Lord God of our fathers be with us, rise up at Thy people's cry,  
For blindness has stricken our rulers, the fate of our land draws nigh.  
Rise up, lest we falter, and save us, and blast with the fire of Thy mouth  
The treason that offers our birthright for the gold of the Kings of the South.

—FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

### A CAMPAIGN AFFIDAVIT

From the Halifax Herald: Ottawa, September 18—A profound sensation was caused in Ottawa tonight through the following remarkable revelation published in the Ottawa Journal, (Ind.):

"The Journal has come into possession of sworn documents secured by the Thiel detective service of Canada, which absolutely incriminate President Taft of being not only the sworn abettor, but the secret originator of the infamous Hearst propaganda. The evidence is irrefutable and irresistible. This is the most damning charge ever hurled against the chief executive of a supposed friendly nation, and the Journal offers proof of its assertions to the very hilt.

### THE CHARGES SUBSTANTIATED BY AFFIDAVIT

"One of the most prominent citizens of Montreal, a man well-known in Ottawa, being duly sworn on Saturday last, makes affidavit of the following startling charges:

"He became quite friendly with Mr. William Hoster, for the past ten years the executive correspondent in Washington for the Hearst newspapers. Hoster told of the present work in Canada. He was sore at being sent to Canada at this time, because he was enjoying a vacation at Beverly, Mass., with President Taft. Hoster said that he had been sent here at the instance of President Taft.

### THE INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM WILLIAM R. HEARST

"His instructions for the trip, however, had been received from William Randolph Hearst, in whose employ he had been for the past ten years. Hearst, who is now in Europe, had cabled Taft that if the president wished it, Hearst would send his best man, namely Hoster, to Canada to make a campaign in favor of reciprocity. Hoster stated that Taft mentioned this to him at the time, and this was before he had been notified by his employers to proceed to Canada. Hoster said that he had wired Mr. Carvello, (who represents Hearst in his absence) to the effect that he preferred to remain at Beverly, where President Taft has a summer home. A copy of the telegram which came back to him from Carvello was given to President Taft, and in discussing the matter with Hoster, Taft told him not to be a 'damn fool,' that he would be paid for his work, always providing it was satisfactory. Hoster added, 'evidently it is.'

### NOT MUCH REASON TO BE PROUD

"That Hoster, the chief Hearst plenipotentiary now in Canada scraping up, raking up or digging up whole reams of pro-Laurier and pro-reciprocity material for the Boston American and other campaign sheets designed for Canadian consumption, is not very proud of his composition is shown by the following statements made to the aforesaid deponent:

"Hoster said that since his arrival in Montreal from New York he had received letters daily telling him to give every argument in favor of reciprocity. He had sent in all such 'dope' daily. I am told to deal out this stuff and I am doing it, and they say my work is satisfactory."

### THE CONSPIRACY DID NOT ALL LEAK OUT THEN

"All of the conspiracy did not leak out. Hoster expressed his chagrin in not being allowed to proceed with President Taft on his long tour which began on September 15. Being a close friend of Taft's, and also Hearst's chief associate, he was surprised to find his plans spoiled, particularly when the president had asked him to accompany him on the tour. But because certain matters would come up before September 21st which would require his presence in Montreal, he was compelled to abandon that trip.

"Hoster refused to state what these matters were except that Hearst had personal knowledge of them.

"Here in the boldest outline, is the story of a plot against Canadian independence, which for consummate impudence has no parallel in history. Hearst has been freely denounced and righteously execrated of late for his unblushing campaign for annexation, toward which goal reciprocity is a long step. But we now see Taft as the prime mover, the crafty originator of the agitation.

### HEARST'S ATTEMPT TO SNATCH CANADA'S BIRTHRIGHT

"What do Canadians think of this foreign interference in our elections?"

"Are we a pack of ignoramuses that we need the guidance of a despicable brigand like Hearst or the counsel of a scheming politician like Taft who under cover of the smile of 'friendship' snatches our birthright from us?"

"What business have the rapacious 'trusts' of the

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