

Trade with Great Britain

We are constantly being told by the Anti-Reciprocity press that we should seek to encourage trade with Great Britain rather than with the United States. That is exactly what Sir Wilfrid Laurier's party has been doing ever since it has been in power.

For forty years both parties in Canada have been pledged to a policy of reciprocity with the United States. When, in 1897, Sir Wilfrid opened negotiations at Washington and was rebuffed, he came home and made his celebrated announcement that there would be no more Canadian pilgrimages to Washington. When the United States got ready for Reciprocity they would have to come to Canada and ask for it. This is what they have now done. Let us see then what the attitude of the two parties has been on the question of the expansion of trade with Great Britain and the Empire.

Who was it that instituted the British Preference in 1897, giving a tariff advantage to British-made goods of 12½%?

The Liberals.

Who was it that opposed and ridiculed this concession, because the Liberals had not demanded for it a consideration from Great Britain?

The Conservatives.

Who was it that increased the British Preference to 25%, and again to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %?

The Liberals.

Who was it that opposed this additional increase, affirming that it would ruin the Canadian manufacturers?

The Conservatives.

Has it ruined the manufacturers?

No, on the contrary, they have prospered amazingly.

And when this preference was being enjoyed by Britain and our sister nations of the Empire, did not Germany "butt in," and put Canadian goods on her maximum customs tariff in an attempt to force Canada to put her upon the same footing as Great Britain?

Yes, and Canada retaliated by putting a one-third surtax on German goods, and subsequently, at the request of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Britain denounced the treaty under which Germany claimed equal rights with Britain, which put an end to her pretensions for preference.

Did the Conservatives approve of the request that Sir Wilfrid made to Britain to denounce the German treaty?

Oh, no, the Conservatives never approve of anything Sir Wilfrid does; they ridiculed his request to Britain to denounce the German treaty, and told him it would never be granted. But it was granted, and since then Germany has made new treaties with both Britain and Canada, which are mutually satisfactory.

Who was it that established a two cent rate of letter postage between Canada and Great Britain, reducing the rate from five to two cents for a half-ounce letter?

Again, the Liberals.

Was this a popular move?

Yes, with the people generally; business men of Canada, as well as those who had friends or relatives in the Old Country, were delighted; but strange to say, it was opposed and ridiculed by the Conservative members of Parliament, who said it could never pay.

Was this reduction reciprocated by the British Government?

Not at first. The British Post-Master General startled by Sir Wm. Mulock's proposition, said that the British Postal Revenue could not afford to meet the reduction.

Did the Liberals persist?

Yes; Sir William told the British P.M.G. that he was sorry he could not cooperate, but that Canada would go ahead all the same. Canada did go ahead, notwithstanding the jeers of the Conservative Opposition in Parliament. The British Post Office gave in and subsequently the benefit of the two cent rate within the Empire was secured.

Were any further postal reductions made by the Liberal Government, with the view to stimulate trade with Great Britain?

Yes, the postage on Canadian newspapers sent to subscribers in the Empire was reduced from 8 cents to $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per lb., and on papers sent by the general public to correspondents within the Empire from 8 cents to 4 cents per lb.

And what has been the practical result of these policies of the Liberal party? Has trade with the Mother Country increased?

Yes, as shown by the following figures :

1896—Imports from Great Britain..	\$ 32,824,505	Increase.
1908—Imports from Great Britain..	94,362,383	\$61,537,878
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1896—Exports to Great Britain. . . .	\$ 62,717,941	
1908—Exports to Great Britain. . . .	126,194,124	\$63,476,183

Will the effect of the Reciprocity agreement be detrimental to the continued expansion of Canada's trade with Great Britain?

Not in the least; the conditions involved in the Reciprocity pact will not appreciably affect the volume of Canada's trade with Great Britain.

A vote then for Doctor Milton Hersey, the Liberal candidate in St. Antoine, should be useful in maintaining the present favorable condition of Canada's trade with the Empire?

Yes, it would be the very best means of promoting and sustaining it. It is because of the able statesmanship of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as exhibited in these matters, and his great loyalty to Canada and the Empire that Doctor Hersey now solicits your vote as a candidate in support of the Liberal Government.