

CAUSE OF FARMERS PRESENTED BY SENATOR DIXON IN SPEECH ON CANADIAN RECIPROCITY

Last week, in the course of the discussion upon the Canadian reciprocity agreement, Senator Dixon presented the cause of the Montana farmer.

Senator Dixon spoke as follows: Mr. President: The senate is confronted by a strange spectacle. A minority of the republican membership of this body, almost without exception made up of senators from the manufacturing states of the east—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio and Illinois, are in alignment with an overwhelming majority of the democratic senators to enact into law a tariff measure, misnamed a reciprocity treaty which, stripped of all disguise, is simply a tariff bill for full "free trade" in all agricultural products under the guise of reciprocity with Canada.

Supporting the same movement for "free trade in farm products" we find aligned in solid phalanx practically the entire daily newspaper press of the great cities, both those that have been and are the advocates of a "protective tariff" and those who have been and are demanding either "free trade" or "tariff for revenue only."

In this new political alliance we see Mississippi and Massachusetts hand in glove, and Pennsylvania and South Carolina joyously acclaiming the newly-proclaimed political economy that proposes protective tariff duties for every class of American citizens and American industries except it be for that portion of our population that earn their living in agricultural pursuits.

At the same time we see in solid opposition to the measure every republican senator, with only three exceptions, from the great agricultural states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Montana, and the three agricultural New England states—Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

For this strange and heretofore unheard of political alliance there must be some profound and basic reason.

For nearly three solid months the senate has been in session to consider and debate the pending measure, and, while very many senators have been heard in denunciation of the bill, only two or three senators have yet raised their voices in even mild defense of it.

There is another strange and unheard of procedure attending this matter. After six weeks of hearings on the bill by the finance committee, and after listening to hundreds of witnesses as to the ultimate effect of its provisions on the agricultural interests of the country, nearly every one of those witnesses giving testimony adverse to its merits, the finance committee sends the bill back to the senate without either a favorable or an adverse report accompanying it.

Yet the great daily newspapers are proclaiming that it must and shall be passed by the senate "without amendment." That no man dare lay unholily and profane hands upon it in any way.

Is it not at least an extraordinary situation that reveals the entire daily newspaper press, with hardly an exception, lined up in solid support of this tariff measure that is misnamed reciprocity?

I fully realize the tremendous and overwhelming power of the press to create and foster public opinion. Its power for good cannot be estimated. When wielded in a common cause it is irresistible. It is practically the only means for the wide dissemination of information.

Generally speaking, the press intends to be fair. But the owners of newspapers are human. They are not entirely above all the selfish interests that admittedly dominate the rest of their fellow creatures.

"Free Print Paper."

We know the campaign for "free print paper" that has been carried on with such persistent purpose since 1907.

In January last the president transmitted to congress the present so-called Canadian reciprocity treaty, way of free trade in all farm products while still maintaining duties on all manufactured articles, "print paper" being the one shining exception to the rule.

A few days later, the powerful American Newspaper Publishers' association sent out instructions marked "private to editors," as follows:

"It is of vital importance to the newspapers that their Washington correspondence be instructed to treat favorably the Canadian reciprocity agreement, because print paper and woodpulp are made free of duty by this agreement."

I am neither arguing pro nor con as to whether as a matter of right or good business judgment the comparatively small duty of about nine per cent—or \$3.75 per ton—on print paper should be removed in a general tariff bill, but is not the price to be paid by the farmers of this country in the way of free trade in all farm products for the remuneration of the small duty on "print paper" a tremendous one?

Day after day we have been only too familiar with the staring headlines: "Reciprocity Sure to Pass," "President Will Force Congress to Act," "President Will Veto Reciprocity if Amended," "No Amendment Will Be Tolerated to Reciprocity Bill," "Senators Will Feel the Big Stick," "Farmers' Opposition Only Inspired by the Lumber Trust, and so on ad infinitum ad nauseam.

I have been reading with much interest the series of articles by Will Irwin, now running in Colliers' Weekly, on the history of newspapers in this country, and was impressed with his eminently fair and impartial treatment of this most interesting phase of our national development.

After paying full and well deserved tribute to the great work done by the press, he also turns on a light as to the relation that sometimes exists between the "business office" and the editorial and news columns.

When Canadian reciprocity has become a law, I would suggest to Mr. Irwin that he might add a most interesting chapter on the relation between the campaign for Canadian reciprocity and the "free print paper" clause in the pending bill.

Some Exceptions. It is indeed gratifying to find three or four of the great daily newspapers that are frank enough to tell the whole story of the relation of "free print paper" and its relation to the so-called reciprocity.

In a recent issue the Philadelphia North American said editorially: "But merely because we consider honest and equitable a reduction of the paper schedules of the tariff which would save the North American large sums of money every year is no reason why this newspaper should give its endorsement to an agreement which is to our self interest, but seems more and more like a sham and a perversion of real reciprocity."

"If any Americans will profit thereby, save the beef trust, the millers, the organized middlemen and the newspapers, we are unable to see who they can possibly be."

Yet this measure is one that did not originate in either branch of congress. The legislative branch of the government had nothing to do with its inception.

The profound silence of its friends in the senate chamber is unexplainable.

Until the agricultural papers of the country began some weeks ago to print the real facts in the case, the people generally were under the honest belief that the so-called reciprocity bill actually meant free trade with Canada in both manufactured and agricultural products.

I think I make no mis-statement of fact when I say the avowed purpose of the measure is free trade in agricultural products, at the same time retaining the tariff duties on all manufactured articles, except print paper.

Canada gets free entrance into our great markets for her surplus agricultural products and in return somewhat lowers her tariff for a freer admission of our manufactures.

In plain words the effect of the treaty is to cheapen the value of the products of our farms for the benefit of the cities and manufacturing centers of the east, to give the newspapers "free print paper."

The whole arrangement being at the sole expense of the farmers of this country. In return he gets nothing, while we remit the \$5,000,000 that is now annually collected on Canadian imports.

Its avowed purpose is to reduce the high cost of living to the population of the cities by lowering the price of agricultural produce.

It is for the city and against the country.

It is for the manufacturers and against the farmers.

It is for the east and against the west.

It is class legislation of the most offensive kind.

The only argument advanced in its favor is that "it will not hurt the farmer—much."

False Colors. It has been sailing under the false colors of "Reciprocity." That is a beautiful name. It roots from the tongue with a sweet accent. The very term "reciprocity" appeals to the better instincts of men. It is like the word "religion," "equity," "goodness," "mercy," "harmony," and other sweet-toned words that appeal to our better nature.

But the man who is enamored at the thought of real "reciprocity with Canada" had better not read any more of the pending bill than its title page if he does not want to be disabused of his first impressions. Otherwise, he will experience a feeling akin to that which a deeply religious person would experience should he pick up a nicely-bound volume labeled, "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress" and discover within the tales of "The Decameron."

Real Reciprocity Good. I want to say in the outset that I am not opposed to real reciprocity with Canada. I would welcome it.

I would not oppose absolute free trade in both manufactured articles as well as farm products with our northern neighbor, where conditions and climate and language and people are so closely akin.

What I do object to is making fish of one industry and flesh of another. The line of demarcation that runs throughout the entire bill is fundamentally wrong.

We have repeatedly asked and no one has yet answered, why are all the products of the farm to be placed on the free list, when, by the terms of the same bill, everything the farmer purchases continues to be protected by tariff duties.

Unanswered Questions. The questions yet remain unanswered why, under this bill:

The present duty of 25 cents per bushel is taken from wheat and the tariff of 50 cents per barrel is to be maintained on flour for the millers, and 17½ per cent on "prepared cereal foods."

Why the duty of 15 cents per bushel is taken from oats and the duty of 50 cents per hundredweight remains on oatmeal?

Why the duty of 30 cents per bushel is taken from barley and the duty of 45 cents per hundredweight retained on barley malt?

Why, with the duty removed from the farmers' wheat, there should be retained a 25 per cent ad valorem duty on "biscuits, wafers and cakes?"

Why the duty of 27½ per cent ad valorem is taken from cattle, \$1.50 per head from sheep and \$1.50 per head from hogs raised on the farm, and a duty of 1½ cents per pound is retained for Armour and Swift on bacon, lard, beef, mutton, pork, and all other dressed meats?

Why the present duty of 6 cents per pound on butter and 4 cents on cheese is taken away and the duty of 20 per cent is retained on the churn that makes the same butter.

Why the present duty of \$4.00 per

ton is removed from hay and the farmer is still compelled to buy his "mowers and horse rakes" under a 15 per cent duty and "hay tedders" and other farming implements under a 20 per cent duty?

Why all vegetables are put on the free list and yet a duty of 1½ cents per pound is still retained on "tomatoes and other vegetables, including corn, in cans?"

We have inquired why, under this misnamed reciprocity treaty everything on earth that the farmer raises (except wool and sheep unshorn, which can also be brought in free) has gone on the free list, and everything on earth that he buys still retains a tariff duty, and no one has answered.

Real Reasons. Mr. President, there must be some reason why this bill is being urged for passage and I hope I am fair-minded enough to discuss frankly the reason urged by some of its proponents for this new departure in our present financial system.

Since 1898 there has been a steady increase in the price of all commodities. The upward movement of prices has not been confined to the United States, but has been world wide.

During the same period there has been witnessed a great world-wide movement for the combination of capital in all forms of commercial enterprise.

It has been the era that has witnessed the formation of the great industrial combinations that are popularly known as trusts and combines. During this 15-year period the tremendous organization of the labor unions has taken place.

Practically every form of labor, except the farmer, has now become organized into industrial and trades unions that embrace within their membership an overwhelming majority of the workers of the United States.

The great combinations of trade and commerce have been most successful in "steadying" and "regulating" the price of their commodities.

The testimony presented by the government in the famous Standard Oil and tobacco trust cases, the testimony of Judge Gary before the house committee regarding the workings of the steel trust, leaves no possible room for doubt as to the effect of these great combinations of capital on the selling prices for every commodity known to modern business.

The successful demands of the labor unions for shorter hours and increase of wages has also largely contributed to the upward trend of prices.

There is another fact that has also been of tremendous importance in this world-wide movement of advance in prices.

According to the last report of the director of the mint from the date of the discovery of America in 1492 down to 1896, a period of over 400 years, the total world production of gold, the unit yardstick of all values, reached a total of \$8,850,000,000. In the past period of 15 years, since 1896, the production of gold has been \$5,000,000,000.

In other words, during the past 15 years there has been poured into the world's column of gold, five billions of dollars, or more than 56 per cent additional to the entire gold production of the world in the 400-year period preceding.

The purchasing power of the gold dollar has in the 15-year period since 1896 shrunk more than one-third.

In the face of this great increase in price values, there has arisen a cry against "the increased cost of living."

It has been felt most by those having a "fixed income."

The wages of the wage earner has probably about kept even pace with the increased price of commodities.

The man with the "fixed income" has felt the "increased cost of living" more than any other class.

Hence, a protest has gone up everywhere and from all quarters against "the increased cost of living."

Forgetting how we struggled against and prayed for a relief from "low wages" and "low prices" that blasted and scorched and dried up the industrial life of this nation in the years immediately preceding the year 1897, the people are now demanding relief from "high prices" and the "high cost of living."

I think it fair to assume that the inception of this so-called reciprocity treaty arose from that protest against "the high cost of living." Frankly speaking, it was an attempt to somewhat "lower the cost of living" to the people of the cities and manufacturing centers at the expense of the farming classes and rural communities of this country.

I have no question that the president, when the idea was suggested to him, acted solely from a good impulse and without a full understanding of its final meaning.

It is my opinion that in his desire to respond to what he believed to be a popular demand, voiced largely through the columns of the great daily newspapers, reflecting only the sentiment of the cities, he yielded to the suggestion, forgetting that the proposition thus proposed to "lower the cost of living" to the people of the cities and manufacturing centers was in reality a cannibalistic scheme to do so at the expense of the other half of our people who are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

My protest against this propaganda for lowering "the cost of living" to one portion of our people at the direct expense of the other portion is that it is not fair or equitable.

If tariffs are to be reduced in order to cheapen prices, then let the reduction be made general, all along the line, to manufacturers and farmers alike.

Let us not attempt to have "free trade in farm products" at the expense of the farmer while retaining high duties on manufactured articles coming from foreign countries.

Let us not make fish of one industry and fowl of another industry.

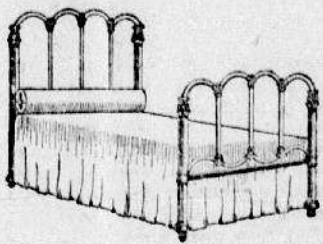
Yet while urging the passage of this reciprocity bill with the avowed purpose of "lowering the cost of living" and lowering the cost of "print paper,"

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Missoula Mercantile Co.

Specials This Week in Our Furniture Annex

This great Furniture Store fills every furniture, drapery and floor covering want of every home, humble cottage or mansion, with the goods of proven quality, up-to-date in style and reasonable in price. These special attractions for this week:



\$5.50 Iron Beds for \$3.35

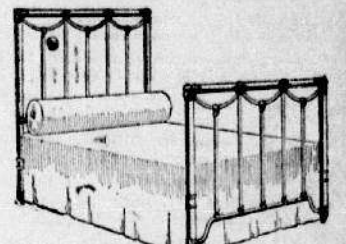
As shown in cut at left; full size; in green or white enamel finish.

\$8 Iron Beds for \$5.15

As shown in cut at right; full size; in green or white enamel finish; 50c extra for Verne Martin finish.

\$9.50 Iron Beds for \$5.95

Handsome design with head and foot in panel effect; full size; white enamel finish; gold trimmings.

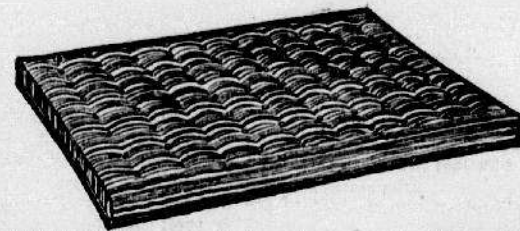


\$3 Couch Covers \$1.49

Couch covers in handsome fluted designs in beautiful colors; fringed and knotted all around; full 60-inch width; regularly sold at \$3.00 each; this week only **\$1.49**

Curtain Rods

Brass Extension Rods, with white ball ends; extends from 30 to 54 inches; regularly 15c each; this week **8c** only. 30c Goose-neck Extension Rods, **17½c**. 40c Goose-neck Extension Rods, **22½c**.



\$13.50 Stearns & Foster "Anchor" Mattress Now for \$10

Only 28 of these splendid, high-grade felted cotton mattresses left; full size and full 45-pound standard weight.

Caloric Fireless Cooker

Impossible to tell you in this space about fifteen good reasons why you will find this a wonderful, cool, time-saving method of cooking; but we shall be delighted to show every feature and explain everything to you in person when you come. A Cooker which bakes, stews, roasts, steams and boils without fire—no cheaper, safer or more satisfactory way to cook, surely. Prices of these Caloric Cookers range from \$11.00 up to \$27.00. An attractive booklet gives recipes for meals, menus and table decorations.

Lace Curtain Close-Outs Half a Dozen Fine Dresser Bargains



\$1.89

A Pair for Curtains that were \$3.75 to \$5.50.

79 pairs only; three and four pairs of a pattern. All high-grade Nottinghams, in new designs and full size; regular \$2.75 to \$5.50. Lace Curtains at per pair—

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Regular stock patterns we have decided to discontinue. Strictly high-grade pieces.

\$15.00 Dressers for \$11.00

No. 6591, in solid oak, imperial finish; brass handles; large French bevel plate mirror.

\$17.50 Dressers for \$12.50

No. 6532, Princess Dresser, in solid oak, imperial finish; brass handles; large French bevel plate mirror.

\$20.00 Dressers for \$12.95

No. 172, Princess Dresser, in mahogany finish; brass handles; large French bevel plate mirror.

\$22.50 Dressers for \$14.85

Two styles—No. 157 Regular Dresser, in mahogany finish; brass handles. No. 1522 Princess Dresser, in mahogany finish; wood knob handles; both have large French bevel plate mirror.

\$30.00 Dressers for \$19.65

No. 2944, Regular Dresser, in solid quartered oak; golden finish; swell front style, with wood knob handles and French bevel plate mirror.



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Rustic Hickory Chairs, **\$3.50** up
Rustic Hickory Rockers, **\$4.00** up
Rustic Hickory Settees, **\$8.00** up
Rustic Hickory Tables, **\$7.50** up
Reed Chairs and Rockers, **\$3.00** up
Folding Camp Chairs at **\$2.50**
Lawn and Porch Swings, folding, at **\$25.00**
Porch Chairs, good and serviceable, for **\$1.00**

REEDCRAFT FURNITURE.

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PORCH SCREENS.

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VUDOR SHADES—In light and dark green and brown; all 7 feet, 8 inches long; complete with all necessary ropes, pulleys and fastenings.

4 feet wide, **\$3.00**
6 feet wide, **\$4.00**
8 feet wide, **\$5.50**
10 feet wide, **\$7.00**.

BAMBOO PORCH SHADES—4 feet wide, 8 feet long, complete, **\$1.00**. 6 feet wide, 8 feet long, complete, **\$1.50**. 8 feet wide, 8 feet long, complete, **\$2.00**.

VUDOR REINFORCED HAMMOCKS.

Vudor Porch Swings, **\$3.00**
Vudor Reinforced Hammocks in five different styles, each in a great assortment of colors, at **\$1.50, \$6.50 and \$8.00**.



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No. 127, Reclining Porch Chair, like cut; regularly \$6.25, reduced to **\$5.35**
No. 127, Reclining Porch Chair, like cut, except made to swing; regularly \$6.50; now **\$5.85**
One only, No. 3 Porch Rocker, green painted frame, cane seat and back; regularly \$3.00, now **\$1.75**
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Three only, No. 77X Folding Porch Rockers, natural finish maple; regularly \$4.00; now **\$2.25**
One only, No. 1 Porch Rocker, with arms; natural finish reed; regularly \$4.00; now **\$2.25**
Three only, No. 1 Porch Rocker, wood frame, cane seat and back; regularly \$4.00; now **\$2.35**
Three only, No. 75X Folding Porch Rockers, with arms, natural finish maple; regularly \$4.50; now **\$2.65**
One only, No. 8 Porch Rocker, with arms; green finished frame, cane seat and back; was \$5.75; now **\$2.95**
Four only, No. 53 Bent wood Porch Chairs, red finish; regularly \$5.00; now **\$3.25**

COUCH HAMMOCKS AND HAMMOCKS.

No. 1 Couch Hammock, complete, can be used as couch or hammock; regularly \$26.00; reduced to **\$17.50**
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