

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1911
 SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
 TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
 AT 81 QUEEN STREET,
 CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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 Editor & Proprietor

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State Socialism in Australia

Referendum votes were taken in Australia on April 26 last in all the colonies of the Commonwealth on two measures of striking importance. One of the two measures submitted to the people provided for what the Socialists called the "new protection." It authorized the Government, whenever it considered the price of a given product too high, or when proper wages were not paid, to withdraw from the product the benefit of the protective tariff.

The second measure bore the direct stamp of Socialism in authorizing the Government to take over, in its discretion, the management of any enterprises which, in its opinion, were monopolized and to make them national industries. It was declared by the champions of the present Socialistic Government that it was not proposed to employ this provision, if enacted, in entering systematically upon the nationalization of industry, but only to take over those industries where competition did not exist or where a small number of rich men were exploiting the community.

Obviously, self-imposed restrictions of this sort would not bind any future Government. It would always be easy to say that competition did not exist or was inadequate, that there was a combination among manufacturers or that a small number of rich men were exploiting the people. In such cases, under the proposed law, the State was authorized to appropriate the enterprise, at "a fair price," of which the Federal Parliament was to be the judge. The battle was distinctly joined, therefore, between those who desired a continuance of the radical policy of the Labor party now in power and those who desired to continue in the old British path of private initiative in business.

The result of the vote was that the first amendment providing for taking away tariff protection in certain cases was lost by 687,000 votes against 443,000. The other amendment, providing for the nationalization of industry, defeated by 682,000 against 446,000 votes. In the vote of April 26, five of the six colonies gave negative majorities. Only West Australia, the most sparsely settled of the colonies—the country of the mining camp and the frontier town—gave a majority of about 500 for the projects of the Government.

The Labor party, which obtained large majorities scarcely a year ago and entered promptly upon a broad Socialistic programme, which included the abolition of bank currency and the issue of Government paper, has thus received a serious check. The local parliaments of each of the colonies already possess some of the powers that were to have been conferred on the central Government by the proposed referendum amendments; but they have not thus far seen fit to exercise them. Apparently, the people of Australia are not yet prepared to go to the full length of the tenets of State Socialism to say nothing of the policies of Socialistic dreams.—St. John Standard.

It is an undoubted fact that a large proportion of the fatalities from lightning are among people taking shelter under trees, and it has been naturally but incorrectly assumed that it is safer to get soaking wet in the open than to take shelter under a tree in a thunder storm. In Hungary, where the deaths from lightning are 77 per million inhabitants, it was found in the three years from 1901 to 1903, that while 15 per cent. of the fatalities occurred under trees, no less than 57 per cent. occurred out in the open. In the United States in 1900 there were 10 per cent out in the open. As a protection from lightning, a house is better than a tree, but a tree is better than nothing. Much also depends on the kind of tree and its location. Any tree standing alone is more likely to be struck than one in a wood and in equal numbers of oak, fir, pine and beech trees a series of observations extending over many years in Lippe, Germany, lead to the conclusion that the respective chances of being struck: Oak 57, fir 39, pine 5, beech 1. The soil is also said to make a great difference, the respective liability as found in Germany being: Loam 22, sand 9, clay 7, chalk 1. In great cities the risk of human life is insignificant compared to the terror inspired, and the immunity has probably been increased by the multiplicity of good electric conductors such as telegraph and telephone wires and steel frame buildings. That telephone companies, however, should have difficulty in attempting to restrain people from trying to use the telephones during severe storms shows the need for a little popular education on the subject.—Montreal Star.

I have said that this was a critical time in the solution of the question of Reciprocity. It is critical because unless it is now decided favorably to Reciprocity, it is exceedingly probable that no such opportunity will ever again come to the United States. The forces which are at work in England and in Canada to separate her by a Chinese wall from the United States, and make her part of an Imperial commercial band reaching from England around the world to England again by a system of preferential tariffs, will derive an impetus from the rejection of this treaty, and if we would have Reciprocity, with all the advantages that I have described, and that I earnestly and sincerely believe will follow its adoption, we must take it now, or give it up forever.—From the speech of President Taft at the joint banquet of the Associated Press and the American Newspaper Publishers' Association held in New York on April 27, 1911.

One cannot resist the impression that if a sharp axe cut away all the avoidable waste through incompetence, an easy neglect and actual graft, the abounding revenues of the Dominion would be found ample for the legitimate national outlays. Mr. Fielding boasts that he is now nearly doing this. If he eliminates such inexcusable fiascos as the Newmarket dry ditch and the sawdust wharves he should succeed in calling a halt to our soaring public debt.—Ottawa Journal.

The Crimes Act in New Zealand.
 The Crimes Amendment Act, which was passed into law by the New Zealand Parliament last year, is a measure introduced by Dr. Findlay, the Attorney General, who accompanied Sir Joseph Ward to England for

the Imperial Conference. The Act makes comprehensive provision for the classification and reformation treatment of criminals. Under the Act any person convicted of an indictable offence may be sentenced to a term of reformatory detention not exceeding ten years, or to three years if summarily convicted.

The Act is administered by a Prison Board, the members of which—representative citizens—are appointed by the Government, the president of the board being a judge of the Supreme Court. This board has the power to make recommendations to the Governor for the discharge or release on probation of persons undergoing sentences of reformatory detention. The board also forwards an annual report to the Minister of Justice of the number of persons under indeterminate treatment, and on the operation of the Act generally.

Persons detained under the provisions of the Act are paid wages for their labor in accordance with a scale fixed by regulation, so that when released they find themselves in the possession of sufficient money to encourage them to start life again honestly. If the prisoner is a married man part of his earnings while he is under detention go to the support of his wife and family, who otherwise might be a burden on the State.

Some years ago the New Zealand Government inaugurated a system of tree-planting prison camps in forest land, and Dr. Findlay has considerably extended this idea. There are now four large prison camps in New Zealand to which prisoners are sent from the principal New Zealand jails, and there employed in tree planting and other bush work under the direction of wardens. At least one New Zealand jail—that of Invercargill, in the South Island—is self-supporting.

Ottawa Correspondence.

Ottawa, July 8.

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, does not seem to be pleased by his constituents judging by the following editorial in the Berlin News Record:—"At Elmira Mr. King is to address a public gathering and give it a description of his 'Trip around the World,' as though that journey (at the country's expense) was an epoch-making affair—more wonderful than Captain Cook's and worthy of setting by a Jules Verne. Yet may we be allowed to say that whenever Mr. King advertises his Trip around the World stunt, it reminds one of an announcement of an 'Uncle Tom' show. It may interest the young but to grown folk it is a chestnut."

Does Mr. King know that this country faces a crisis? That the electorate have been wrenched from their moorings by the Reciprocity question? That this problem ranks in importance with Confederation and with the struggle for Protection in 1878.

Sitting as he does for a riding which is second to none in the Dominion in industries and agriculture, the electors have a right to know what defence he has to offer for the thing.

His choosing the topic he has done at Elmira, may mean that he is ashamed to advocate Reciprocity in industrial centres like Elmira, Waterloo, or Berlin. Or it may mean that he has failed to grasp the importance of this burning question and consequently considers that his jaunt to the Far East should take precedence. Again he may be of the opinion that if he were to discuss Reciprocity, that the town-folk of North Waterloo would not understand him.

Let us say to Mr. King that the electors of this riding admire straightforwardness in a member. They expect him to square himself on the Reciprocity deal, if it be possible. They desire to know why he has taken the stand he did? And they have the right to know.

Reverting to the member's capabilities, we soon shall be hearing from him what a wonderful deed he performed in arranging for a Commission on Technical Education. Yet the credit belongs to another. The News-Record published the address at the time. The following is an excerpt from "The Canadian Century," which, speaking of Hugh Guthrie, M. P., says:

"Not long ago he gave indications of constructive statesmanship, when he proposed to take Technical Education out of the deep rut into which it has got in the different provinces, by placing it under Dominion control and initiative. In order to do that, he did not hesitate to antagonize his party, and even to incur the ire of the Boy Minister, who doesn't like the plain member to poach on his preserves."

Mr. King, M. P., will require to shed the personal pronoun, to discard his stage fixings and get down to brass tacks before he can hope to be acceptable to a majority of North Waterloo's electors.

Ottawa July 8th.—The story of Mr. Borden's political tour of the Prairie Provinces is one of unexampled success. He is making converts all along the line and is absolutely satisfied with the results of the first portion of his trip.

A private message received in Ottawa on his birthday from the Opposition leader says "Our tour has been very enjoyable and satisfactory." On another occasion he made the following statement.

We are delighted in every way with the tour. Our reception has been most cordial and enthusiastic. The attendance at our meetings has been beyond our expectations, and everywhere there has been an intense desire to hear the reciprocity agreement discussed.

I am convinced that the agreement finds in the west much less favor than has been supposed, and that western opinion is shaping itself against the treaty. The more it is discussed and the better it is understood, the less it is liked. This applies as well to the west as to the east. The tour of the Conservative leader begun at Winnipeg and the reception he received there was of a most cordial description, the like of which, given to a public man, had never been seen in the west, at least from the point of view of a spectacle.

Of course, if anti-reciprocity should score anywhere it should be in Winnipeg, as in any great manufacturing centre. But it has also to be remembered that Winnipeg is the home of the present Conservative Government of the Province, therefore there was really little to be wondered at, that at the gateway of the west Mr. Borden should receive a royal reception.

Perhaps the best example of enthusiastic welcome of Mr. Borden that the west afforded was at Calgary. Correspondents unite in saying that this was the most enthusiastic reception of the tour. The Calgary people turned out in their thousands and cheered the Conservative leader more frequently and enthusiastically than they did the leader of the Government about a year ago. Anti-reciprocity in the heart of Alberta was evidently a winning cry and it was the same in Regina and Moosejaw, the pulse centres of Saskatchewan.

The estimate of Mr. Borden of the Grain Growers Association is worth a consideration.

While the majority of the farmers who are members of these Associations would seem to be opposed to the attitude of the Conservative party and its leader, they never lost an opportunity of expressing admiration for the candor and apparent honesty which Mr. Borden showed in dealing with the questions at issue. Indeed on all questions except that of Reciprocity they were heartily in accord. But while they declared hostility to his attitude regarding the agreement, they also expressed the view that at any rate they knew exactly what his mind was on the subject, and the same could not be said of certain other public men regarding questions which are before the people.

Mr. Borden therefore has made considerable headway. Any such personality as he possesses, once understood, will always make headway. He is better known today than we were before the last general election, and even then he was able to divide the west evenly. He will do better than that next time. The people will place their faith in a trustworthy man, whereas they will avoid a shuffler.

One other matter which has helped Mr. Borden greatly is the attitude assumed in England by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is perfectly evident that while attending the Imperial Conference and the Coronation he made an effort to re-instate himself in the good graces of the people of his native province, Quebec. He has exhibited a fear that Bourassa has undermined him there and he showed himself willing to stake his all on retaining Quebec and leaving the English speaking provinces to stay within the fold in sufficient numbers to return him again to power. Apparently he has over-reached himself and the English speaking provinces are aroused at his anti-British attitude. Resolutions disapproving of it have been presented by local organizations during Mr. Borden's tour, all these will represent the feelings of the English people in general.

It has been truly said that this is the first time since he came into power in 1896 that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been face to face with a really big problem, and he has shown himself unable to rise to it.

His years of office have been more or less a pleasant progress with little beyond domestic problems to disturb its harmony. On the very first occasion upon which he has to tackle an international question of supreme importance to the Canadian people he is found unable to rise above the cheap platform of the political opportunist. He is after all, not the great man that his predecessors, such as Sir John Macdonald and others were. He has been a pleasant courteous gentleman of striking appearance, but little else to commend himself to the confidence of the Canadian people. Mr. Borden is composed of bigger material.

Maine Woods Swept.

Kineo, Maine, July 9.—Five hundred men are engaged tonight in fighting one of the worst forest fires that Maine has ever known. It has already burned over an area seven miles long in Enoch Township, causing a loss estimated at \$125,000, and there is no present prospect of stopping the spread of the flames. Men are being drafted from other towns by the authorities to assist in the work. In the Frenchtown district a fire has been burning for several days in spite of the efforts of 300 men to control it. Still another serious fire has been burning on Lobster Mountain.

MARRIED.

McLEOD—JOHNSTON—At Murray River, July 5th, 1911, by Rev. Ewen McDougall, Calvin McLeod, of Murray River, to Lavinia G. Johnston, of White Sands.

GRASWELL—MATHERSON—At Waterbury, July 6th, by the Rev. D. McLean, Mr. Thomas Grasswell, of Rushtonville, to Miss Margaret Macgregor Matheson, daughter of J. Benjamin Matheson, Quater Bed Bridge.

DIED.

HUGHES—At St. Mary's Road, on Thursday, June 29th, 1911, Bridges Hughes, daughter of James M. Hughes, aged 17 years. May she rest in peace.

QUIMORE—In this city, July 4th, 1911, Lillian, wife of L. A. Oudmore, aged 21 years.

HENRY—At Geenville, on July 7th, 1911, Mrs. Edward Henry, aged 92 years.

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Collections attended to. Money to loan. Ch'town, Feb. 22, 1911—6m

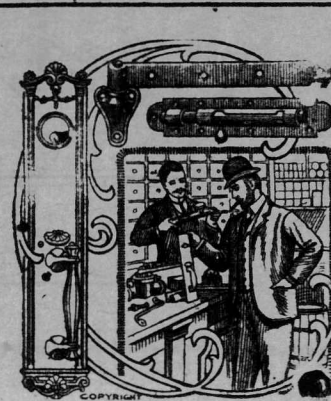
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