

effective immediately, tho they will be much more effective when property qualification for school franchise is abolished and women have a full and free voice in school matters.

Upon questions of political and economic reform the convention spoke with no uncertain voice in the direction of democracy. The declaration for the taxation of land values was in accord with the expressed policy of the convention for several years past and harmonizes with the policies of the sister organizations to the east and west. The announcement of the new tariff proposals came on the last day of the convention and was too late to permit of even a careful examination of the new taxes, but the delegates unanimously declared against the proposal to increase the protective element in the tariff and thus burden the people for the benefit of the protected manufacturers. But the three farmers' organizations must do more than pass resolutions if they hope to have the burden of the protective tariff removed from their shoulders. The time has come when decisive action is required.

FREE TRADE WITH BRITAIN

There is no more patriotic or wise action that the Dominion Government could take at the present session than to abolish entirely the import duties upon British goods coming into Canada. Many speeches will, no doubt, be made from both sides of the House breathing passionate devotion and loyalty to Britain, and measures and appropriations will be passed providing for the despatch of more of our young men to fight and die in defence of the Empire. But the truly loyal Canadian who really loves British liberty and desires to see Canada fully co-operating with the people of

the old land in this crisis, will not feel entirely comfortable while British-made goods, the products of British workmen, British mills, British factories and British farms, are refused admittance to this country except on payment of a heavy fine in the form of the customs tax. Great Britain freely receives the products of Canada, her wheat and other grains, her apples, cheese and butter, her cattle, her agricultural implements and a thousand other things, and not one cent of duty is charged. Hundreds of Canadian factories are today working overtime manufacturing goods to the order of the British Government, for which the working people of Great Britain will help to pay. And in return we show our gratitude by increasing the taxes on the goods which those same British workmen produce, and which we in Canada need to feed and clothe us and to carry on our own work of production.

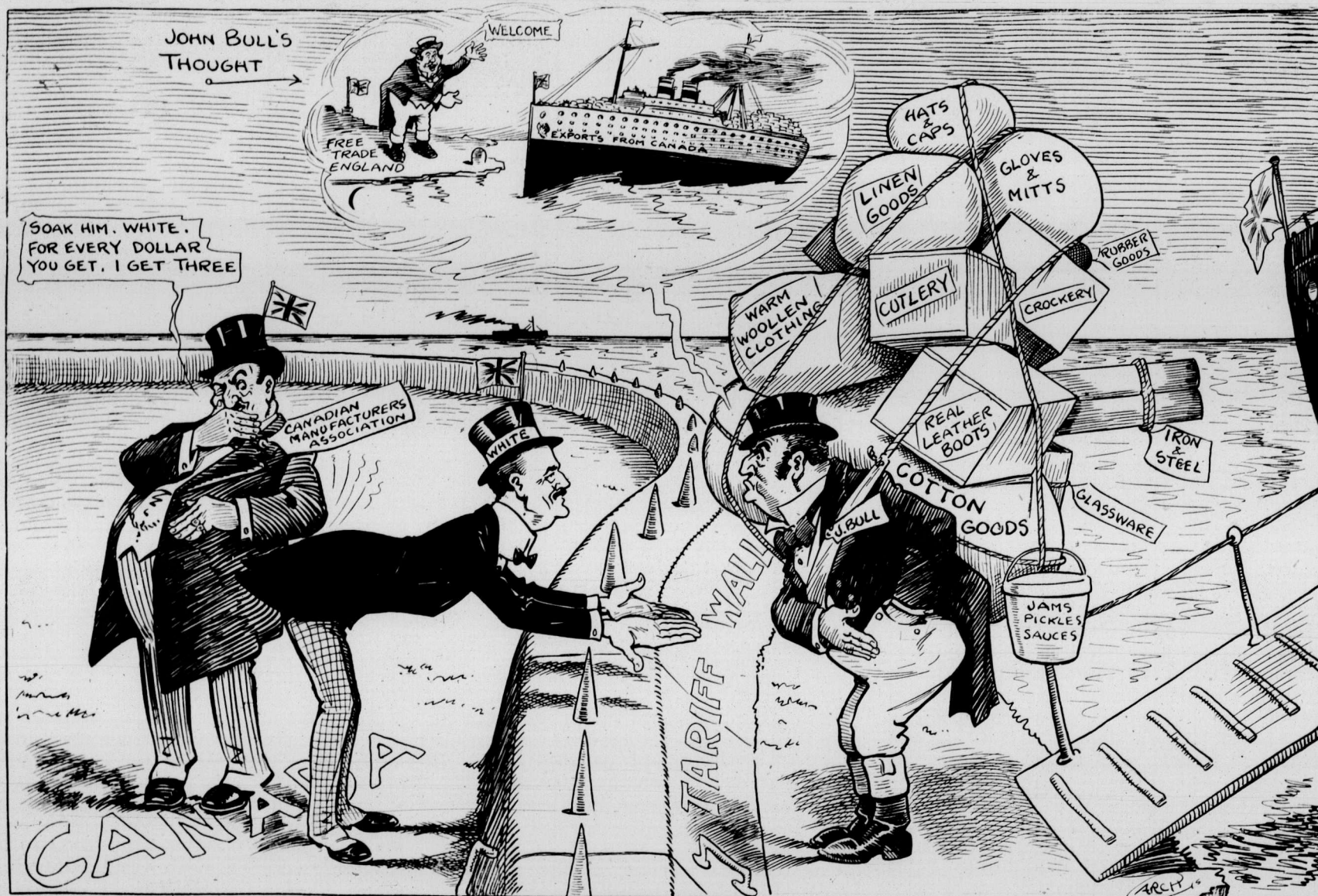
The "British Preferential Tariff" is a farce. It is true that certain articles bear a lower rate of duty when imported from Great Britain than when they come from foreign countries, but the tariff schedule has been so juggled and arranged that a higher average rate of duty is collected on British goods than on goods which come, for instance, from the United States. This has been brought about by selecting those goods which commonly come from Great Britain, such as woolen goods, underwear, cloth, blankets, gloves and so forth, and placing a considerably higher rate of duty on these than on those things, such as agricultural implements, coal, iron, and raw or partly manufactured materials for the use of manufacturers, which come chiefly from the United States. The Dominion Government blue books show that the average rate of duty collected on all imports from the United

States in the year ending March 31, 1914, was 15.648 per cent. while the rate collected on goods from the United Kingdom was 19.547 per cent. On dutiable goods alone from the United Kingdom the duty averaged 25.217 per cent., and from the United States 24.809. The British preference, therefore, as it actually works out in practice, is not a preference but a handicap. Let the Canadian Parliament for once throw off the domination of selfish special interests in tariff matters. They could do nothing more popular in Canada or in Britain, and nothing that would show to the world more forcibly the oneness of Canada and Great Britain than the establishment of Free Trade between the two countries. The only people who would oppose such action would be a few men who have been plundering the people under the shelter of the tariff on British goods, and those who have encouraged them to do so.

In the last fiscal year Canada collected \$25,816,854 in duty on British goods. Canadian manufacturers of competing goods, it is safe to say, collected at least \$50,000,000 from the people in increased prices which they were enabled to charge because of the duties, so that economy, as well as patriotism would justify the removal of the duties. But how, someone will ask, will the deficiency in revenue be made up? The organized farmers of Western Canada have said that they believe it should be made up by a tax on land values.

The Finance Minister says his new tariff proposals will stimulate agriculture. For heaven's sake let him explain how, for nobody else can see it.

The celebrated Dr. Johnson defined patriotism as "The last refuge of a scoundrel."



HOW CANADA AIDS GREAT BRITAIN

Finance Minister White: "Hello, John. I got \$25,000,000 in duties on your goods last year. I want \$30,000,000 this year."
John Bull: "And that is your idea of patriotism is it?"