

POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1922

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SEE LITTLE TO CRITICIZE IN IT

Comment in Ottawa on Budget Brought Down by Hon. Mr. Fielding

ATTITUDE OF PROGRESSIVES

Latter Pleased That It is a Step in the Right Direction—Liberals Expect Debate to be Brief One—Conservative Criticism Will be Made as Matter of Course.

Ottawa, May 24—Members of parliament who had to remain in Ottawa over the holiday weekend for the moment to express any decided opinions about the budget presented to the commons yesterday by Hon. W. S. Fielding.

The New Taxes Named In The Budget Speech

New taxes were announced as follows:
Sales tax increased by 50 per cent.
Passenger automobiles, five per cent. up to \$1,200; 10 per cent. above \$1,200.
Alcohol, 15 cents per gallon.
Confectionery, five per cent.
Mineral waters and other soft drinks, 10 cents per gallon.
Cheques, 2 cents up to \$50; 2 cents on each additional \$50.
Insurance, 5 per cent. on premiums paid unlicensed companies.
Telegrams and cables, increased from 1 cent to 5 cents.
Transfers of stock, increased from 2 cents to 5 cents per share.
Best sugar, 49 cents per 100 pounds.
All the foregoing are under the special war revenue act.
Cigars, excise from \$6 per thousand to \$7 per thousand.
Banks, 1 per cent. on circulation.

that possibly Mr. Fielding has gone his limit in reductions for this session. Liberals today expressed the opinion that the budget debate, which begins on Friday, would be a comparatively brief one. Few of them desire to participate in the talk, feeling that the subject had been argued at sufficient length by Mr. Fielding and knowing that the premier and possibly two other members of the cabinet will desire to speak.

It was said today that the Conservatives think they see many loopholes which may be attacked. For one thing, the Conservatives do not like the cancellation of the depreciated currency legislation. One Conservative sentiment heard today was to the effect that this was "Free trade with Germany." With the value of the mark at one-third of a cent, as against a pre-war value of twenty-four cents, the Conservatives claim that the country is open to a flood of German goods with nothing in the

way except a general Canadian tariff. Against this, of course, is the argument that the depreciated currency legislation never accomplished the ends for which it is designed. As Mr. Fielding put it yesterday, "The late government has not succeeded in shutting out German goods. What they have succeeded in doing is in shutting out the Canadian merchant from an opportunity of doing direct trade, and in obliging him to pay tribute to somebody else."

In other words the Fielding argument is that the depreciated currency legislation was a sham which only left good Canadian money in the hands of the middlemen in Holland and Britain. In spite of this the slogan, "Free trade with Germany," is too good a one for the Conservatives to overlook when they hurt their arguments about the floor of the house, and out into the country. It is said, also, that the opposition will attempt to belittle the tariff reductions in

the eyes of the farmers, alleging that the amount saved in lowered duties is more than offset by the fifty per cent. increase in the sales tax. Already some members of Mr. Meighen's party have asserted that, all told, the new budget means many millions less to the western farmers.

The Progressive Attitude.

It was noticeable yesterday that while the Progressives applauded the first portion of Mr. Fielding's speech they were rather silent when he came to summarize his tariff reductions. Some of them think there should have been a greater cut on textiles, boots and shoes, and agricultural implements. One Progressive figured that the reduction on a hinder came to about \$2.75, while the sales tax was about \$2.30 of this. On boots N. O. P. the old tariff was twenty per cent. preference and thirty per cent. general. The new tariff makes it 17 1/2 per cent. preference, and leaves the general as it was.

Some of the Progressives point out that only some of the higher class boots come from Britain, and that the boot manufacturers are given just as much protection as ever.

On linen or cotton clothing the preference was twenty-five per cent. and the general tariff thirty-five per cent. The reduction under the preference makes it 22 1/2 per cent. and the general tariff remains at 35 per cent. The same application is made to woollen clothing where the preference was 22 1/2 per cent. and reduced to 20, while the general tariff remains at 35.

On agricultural implements the reductions in the general tariff average a little better than five per cent. The Progressives, at least some of them who were in the parliament buildings today, thought that this reduction might have been more.

Looking at the budget as a whole, the Progressives are pleased that it is a step in the right direction. As one of them put it: "If Mr. Fielding is able to do the same thing for three years in succession, we will have the tariff where it ought to be as a tax. Of course, we realize that the expenses are enormous, and he cannot make the cuts he otherwise would. Still, Mr. Fielding has made the right gesture, and he will be supported."

Little to Criticize.

Business men from all parts of Canada who were here yesterday and heard the speech, and others who made haste this morning to secure copies of Hansard, have little criticism to pass. Several prominent manufacturers remarked that they thought they had escaped rather easily in view of some Liberal pre-election talk. In fact, one heard in Ottawa today no complaints that industry would be ruined. On the other hand, all seemed glad matters had been settled for a while. Among merchants and wholesalers here relief was expressed that there had been no revival of any form of luxury tax. Though the sales tax has been increased fifty per cent. it is pointed out that it is a comparatively easy tax to collect and one that is not noticed by the majority of consumers.

The comment ought to become more specific tomorrow, after there has been time to study the schedules and taxation changes. On Friday the commons reassemble, and the budget debate will be begun. According to present arrangements it will be continued every day until finished. There is a general feeling that the wind-up ought to come by Friday week.

It is, of course, too early to predict any amendments, but judging by Conservative sentiment today, that party will have one regarding the cancellation of the depreciated currency legislation.

A BOY SCOUT IS DROWNED

Charles Eustis Hubbard, 2nd, Who Spent His Summers at Shediac, Loses Life.

Shediac, May 24—Many young friends of Charles Eustis Hubbard, the twelve-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Tracey Hubbard, of Brookline (Mass.), were shocked this week to learn of his death by drowning in the Charles river at Dedham (Mass.). The boy's mother was formerly Miss M. Beale Welling, daughter of Mrs. George W. Welling of Shediac Cape, and the lad had spent nine or ten summers there, where he was a general favorite. His father is a member of the staff of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard College, and is a son of Charles Eustis Hubbard, director of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., and formerly its secretary. The latter Mr. Hubbard is an uncle of Mrs. Bell, wife of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, of Washington, and Baddeck (C. B.).

The accident occurred last Saturday evening while the lad was with fellow Boy Scouts camping. He and three other boys were in a canoe when it was upset. All were saved except the Hubbard boy, who although a good swimmer, was apparently carried under by a strong current. He is survived by his parents, a brother and sister.

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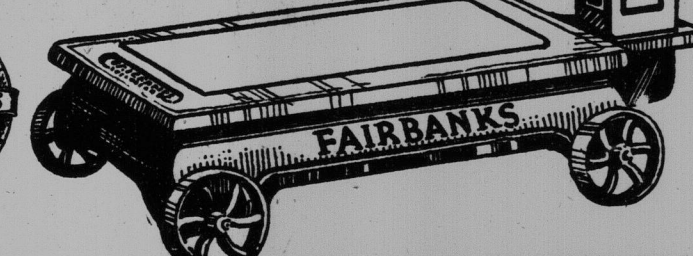
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