

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, December 18th, 1912

WE CAN AT LEAST PROTEST

The two political naval policies are now public and no human power can prevent the people of Canada being taxed \$35,000,000 to build a navy. Even though the expenditure is decided upon it is still not out of place to consider why this huge tax is necessary in an age of peace, when the tendency is towards more peace. The memorandum prepared by the British Admiralty for the Canadian Government makes two things abundantly clear. First, there is no emergency, and, second, Britain intends to keep her own navy sufficient for her own needs, entirely independent of what Canada may do. It would be folly for Britain to do otherwise. The possibility, therefore, of the Empire being in danger has been settled. It then resolves itself into a Canadian question, no matter which of the political policies we consider. We hear that our self-respect demands a navy, that we must protect our trade routes, that we must prepare for foreign invasion and many other similar arguments. In Canada to a greater extent than to any other country in the world there is an element that stands to profit enormously by every public expenditure. This is due to the fact that we raise our revenues by a protective tariff. No one now has the hardihood to deny that for every dollar of revenue raised two dollars additional are taxed out of the people by the protected interests, and divided up by the Triple Alliance—Banks, Railways and Manufacturers. Thus it is perfectly clear that this Triple Alliance will favor every huge expenditure the political parties can think of. And it is this same Triple Alliance that leads in the waving of the flag and shouting the national anthem. They are the only ones who stand to make money out of their protestations of loyalty. They also will reap a harvest of tin pot titles as an additional reward. But what of those in Canada who are today being taxed to the very limit of endurance? What of those who live in poverty though within sight of the castles of the rich in every Canadian city? What of those who struggle on our Western frontiers? What do they need of a navy? The common people of Canada have never asked for a navy. The talk of protecting trade routes is sheer nonsense, as is the talk of foreign invasion. There is no foreign enemy that we need fear half as much as our own made-in-Canada Barons of Privilege. Let us not be led astray by the flag waving and loyalty shouting of the politicians. The money will be voted and the people will be taxed, but we should have the moral courage to enter our protest and thus make a start towards a saner time, when Canada will move towards peace and goodwill towards men. The two policies should be put to a referendum, where the people may decide, and have the matter settled once and for all.

Captain R. P. Harvey, of the Royal Berks Regiment, England, and a member of the special reserve, passed through Winnipeg recently in the course of an extended tour of the United States and Canada. The captain was most emphatic in his declaration that war between Britain and Germany must come and the sooner the better. Winnipeg has had several visitors of this sort during the past few months. It seems surpassingly strange that so many patriots who live in hourly expectation of "the inevitable war" should indulge in leisurely and protracted tours of sight-seeing to the uttermost parts of the earth, thousands of miles distant from the post of duty. Either they do not look for war as soon as they claim or else they

are indulging in a new and curious course of preparation.

TARIFF LESSONS FROM THE STATES

Of all the causes leading to the Democratic sweep in their presidential elections, the one that lay most deeply in the national mind was revolt against the extortion of the tariff. President-elect Wilson put to the very forefront of his campaign the ringing message to cut out privilege by doing away with the favors conferred on a few by the high tariff. The American voters were not left to accept any man's word as to the effects of protection. A special agent was sent to London, where he actually purchased a long list of standard American-made articles in common use. Without exception these goods sold at a lower price in London than in New York, although all were manufactured in the United States. The following table shows the startling results of this shopping tour:—

	London. Price.	N. Y. Price.	N. Y. Price.	Excess N. Y. Price.
Mouse trap .....	.02	.05	.03	.03
Metal polish (Sterling), per box .....	.04	.05 or .10	.01-.06	
Lubricating oil (Three-in- One), small size .....	.09	.10	.01	
Lubricating oil (Three-in- One), large size .....	.18	.25	.07	
No. 10 meat chopper (En- terprise)	1.57	2.25	.68	
Alarm clock (Ansonia Pirate) ..	.85	1.00	.15	
Axe, 3-lb. (Collins)	1.10	1.35	.25	
Hammer (claw), 28 oz., (Smythe) .....	.50	.66	.16	
Hammer (claw), about 2 lbs. (Atha Tool Co.) .....	.58	.75	.17	
Meat chopper No. 20 (Sar- gent & Co.) .....	.93	1.50	.57	
Men's shoes (black, Walk- over)	2.56	4.00	1.44	
		5.00	2.44	
Men's shoes (tan, Walkover) ..	4.05	5.00	.95	
Shoes, ladies' (Aborn)	2.20	3.50	1.30	
Shaving stick (Williams) .....	.18	.20	.02	
Wooden washboard .....	.13	.25	.12	
Hatchet No. 2, shingling (Collins) .....	.57	.66	.09	
Ladies' cotton stockings .....	.13	.25	.12	
Ladies' knitted combination ..	.36	.60	.24	
Child's jumper dress .....	.93	1.25	.32	
Ladies' woollen dress	2.84	5.00	2.16	
Ladies' serge dress	4.62	10.00	5.38	
Ladies' velveteen dress	5.00	10.00	5.00	
Ladies' lawn petticoat .....	.72	.98	.26	
Boy's undershirt, all wool ..	.47	.89	.42	
Boy's cotton shirt .....	.36	.48	.12	
Man's undershirt, all wool ..	.61	1.50	.89	
Man's drawers, all wool .....	.71	1.50	.79	
Knitted mercerized scarf ..	.13	.25	.12	
Silk scarf .....	.24	.50	.26	
Ladies' shoes	1.68	2.49	.81	
Men's shoes	2.17	3.49	1.32	
Boys' working shoes	1.09	2.00	.91	
Boys' suit, all wool	3.93	8.00	4.07	
Man's suit, all wool	5.82	12.00	6.18	
Man's overcoat, all wool	5.11	10.00	4.89	
Man's suit, made to order (highest grade tailor)	25.65	45.00	19.35	
Ladies' long coat, all wool ..	5.22	10.00	4.78	
Witch hazel soap (Corona) ..	.06	.10	.04	
Vaseline, tin (Chesebrough) ..	.02	.05	.03	
Camphor ice, round tins (Chesebrough) .....	.02	.05	.03	
Cold cream, tin (Chese- brough) .....	.04	.10	.06	
Perfume, small bottle (Col- gate) .....	.02	.10	.08	
Jar cold cream, No. 5 (Col- gate) .....	.24	.25	.01	
Tar soap, (Dusky Diamond) ..	.06	.10	.04	
Scouring soap (Bon Ami) .....	.06	.10	.04	
Whist playing cards .....	.24	.25	.01	
Split cane fishrod .....	.95	1.00	.05	
Reel (Hendry) .....	.48	.75	.27	
Breakfast food (Force) .....	.12	.15	.03	
Scouring soap (Sapolio) .....	.06	.10	.04	
Playing cards (Goldfite) .....	.24	.38	.14	
Playing cards (Ixion) .....	.15	.20	.05	
Salmon (Anchor Brand) .....	.17	.18	.01	
Salmon (Precious Brand) .....	.17	.25	.08	
Playing cards (Mascot and Bicycle) .....	.24	.25	.01	
Glace Gloves, Men's (Dents) ..	.45	1.00	.55	
Shoe polish, pad and brush (Nugget) .....	.36	.40	.04	

It will be seen that in ladies' woollen and

serge dresses, in boys' suits and in men's woollen suits, underwear and gloves, American made goods were sold to Londoners at less than half the price of these same goods when sold in New York. Surely this makes plain that the common plea of the tariff barons about either the necessity or, the benefits of Protection is just so much buncombe. Protection translated into terms of actual marketing in London and New York means a legalized system whereby the consumers at home may be taxed anywhere up to three or four times the price foreigners pay for the self-same goods. Is it any wonder the American nation rose in its might against the Republican party of high tariff? All this has a lesson for Canada. If our protected interests do not extort the same gains from Canadian consumers it is only because the tariff does not allow so much plunder. They take all they can get and are continually lobbying Parliament for more. Canada will be well-advised in avoiding the tariff mistakes of the United States and in seeking the welfare of the people generally rather than the fortunes of a clique of tariff favorites.

FOOD TRUSTS IN CANADA

One of the chief factors in the increase in the cost of living, which most consumers are finding hard to bear, is the monopoly in canned goods. A few years ago the farmers in Ontario founded and successfully operated several canning factories along co-operative lines. None of these co-operative factories now remain in the hands of the farmers. The Cannery Combine which controls practically the whole Canadian trade, forced them out of business. Just how this was done is stated by the latest issue of the "Canadian Co-operator" in the following terms:

"Those co-operative farmers had sufficient capital at their command to meet the legitimate needs of their respective factories. They were in a position to supply from their farms all the raw material necessary for the successful operation of their undertakings. They had not, however, the organized demand of the consumers, nor had they the millions at their backs to maintain a price-cutting war for supremacy if such were entered upon; a use of capital which, while being immoral is nevertheless tolerated by the state."

The result was that the farmers in many cases had to sell their factories to the Cannery Combine, and the people in consequence must pay whatever the trust dictates. What those prices are to the western farmers was given by a Guide correspondent recently as 20 and 25 cents per quart can of tomatoes, and 15 cents for a pint can of peas or corn. The profits pouring into the pockets of the combine magnates may be judged from the fact that a bushel of good tomatoes will make from ten to twelve cans, whereas the farmers who raise them are paid only 25 cents per crate of sixty pounds, subject to being docked on much the same principle as grain grading. This means that the trust extorts from the consumers \$1.50 or more for goods which have cost them 20 cents or thereabouts, which would seem to leave a snug margin above the cost of canning. Yet when the Cannery Combine was under investigation in the Dominion Parliament, there were no fewer than three of the members directly interested in preserving intact the monopoly now enjoyed, and any adverse action was effectively staved off. This is only another instance to back home the truth that in order to look after their own interests and offer any effectual opposition to the special interests in food combines as in other enterprises, the farmers themselves must have their own representatives on the floor of Parliament.