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A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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In Killing Canadian Industry Farmer Defeats Own Object

Following Principle of Saving Five Cents and Losing a Hundred Dollars by Short-Sighted Policy of Working for Lowered Tariffs

The Canadian farmer is either a very poor figurer or is being seriously misled by politicians who shout from the house-tops that they are zealously working in the interest of the farmer and Canadian progress by knocking Canada's tariff to the four winds which constitutes our only bulwark against the destroying seas of foreign competition.

It has been figured out that the farmer might save, not more than \$8.00 on a piece of machinery by bringing it in from the States duty free, but if he really made that saving it would be poor recompense for the damage he would be doing to the country and also for the actual money that he would lose on the sale of his products. But would he actually save this \$8.00? We emphatically declare that he would not, for the moment that the Canadian implement manufacturer is driven out of business by unfair competition which it is impossible for him to meet, due to the vast differences in the status of the two countries, the American manufacturer immediately raises his price to equal the price that would have to be charged by the Canadian manufacturer and right there the imaginary saving of eight dollars is wiped out; and what else happens as a result of the taking away of our protection?

Not only has he ruined Canadian industry by his short-sightedness, but he has ruined his own market, for is not Canada the principle market of the Canadian farmer for his standard products and American competition will become so strong that he will lose his market entirely. Even now, no doubt the average farmer is wondering why he is only getting fifteen cents a dozen for his eggs and why, every year, it is also impossible for him to dispose of the vegetables he has grown during the preceding summer? The answer is easily found in the advantages that the States enjoy in varying weather conditions which permits them to grow fresh vegetables and produce new laid eggs in great quantities at all seasons of the year and the surplus is dumped into Canada, destroying the market for our own produce. At this season of the year, the Canadian farmer is not getting near the cost of the feed for his hens with eggs at fifteen cents a dozen let alone the labor and overhead involved, but if there was sufficient duty on the importation of American eggs, our farmers would get a price for their eggs that would be commensurate with the material and labor cost and this is what is needed to put our Canadian agriculture industry on a sound footing. Just as soon as our farmer starts to operate on a profitable basis it will reflect in the prosperity of Canadian industries of all kinds and the natural and healthy growth of the country will follow.

There is also another serious phase to this question which should not be overlooked; the suspension of Canadian industries caused through the lowering of our tariff throws countless men and women out of work and the present situation is further aggravated by the migration of our best class of citizens to the other side. In fact we have already felt the effects of insufficient tariff protection by way of a heavy exodus of skilled labor and mechanics of all lines to the States during the past few months.

The farmer is an artisan and a working man just the same as the artisan and mechanic in our cities, and one needs protection just as bad as the other, for after all their interests are somewhat similar.

THEFORE, LET US ALL UNITE FOR A GREATER TARIFF AND A GREATER AND MORE PROSPEROUS CANADA WILL FOLLOW!

Bindery Girls Fight Wage Board

Toronto Workers Not in Accordance With Finding of Wage Commission

Toronto, Ont.—Bindery girls of this city intend to appeal to legislature members against decisions of the Minimum Wage Board. They have finished their argument with the Board on behalf of lower-paid girls in industrial establishments, but determined to continue the fight for improved conditions and wages for working girls.

"First of all, we intend to compile a budget and ask the board to accept it," said one girl. "We will present it and our arguments against the board's decision to the legislature. We are also asking the board to supply us with a list of boarding houses where board and rooms can be had for \$7.00 a week and the names of girls who are willing to work for \$10.00 a week. Some of our members will investigate conditions in these houses."

8,000 Alberta Miners Out on Strike

Struggle With Owners Indicated—Men Demand a Three-Year Agreement

Calgary, Alta.—With every indication that the struggle will be one of the longest in the history of the Western Canada coal industry, approximately 8,000 miners went on strike, compelling the miners of Alberta and northeastern British Columbia fields. Maintenance men will remain at work.

The strike order was issued on March 15th, when union officials and representatives of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association failed to reach an agreement on a new contract. The men demand a three-

N.S. Wage Act Starts May 1st

Minimum Wage Law for Women Reaches Factories; Shops

The Minimum Wage for Women Act, passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1920, according to a proclamation issued on February 11, will come into effect on May 1st, 1924.

The Nova Scotia act applies only to factories and shops. Factories are defined as in the Factories Act, while a shop is defined as "any retail, auction or wholesale shop, store, booth, stall or warehouse at which assistants are employed for hire." The Governor-in-Council is authorized to appoint a Minimum Wage Board consisting (as in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan), of five members, including two women. The members of this board will receive remuneration according to a scale fixed by the Governor-in-Council.

The board have authority, first "to ascertain and declare what wages are adequate to furnish the necessary cost of living to employees," and, where not inconsistent with the Factories Act, or the Act "Of the Closing of Shops and the Hours of Labor Therein for Children and Young Persons" to ascertain and declare also what were reasonable hours and proper sanitary conditions and requirements for those employed in factories and shops; and secondly, to establish standards of minimum wages and hours of employment for such employees. Special minimum rates may be fixed for defective workers and for apprentices, in occupations for which minimum wages have been fixed.

Musicians Charge To Play for CKCH

Ottawa, Ont.—While they still intend to give their services free of charge to all amateur radio broadcasting stations, members of the Musicians' Protective Association, local No. 180, of this city, decided at their regular meeting held recently to fix a charge for members playing at any commercial radio station such as CKCH, the Canadian National broadcasting station in the Jackson Building. The charge fixed is \$2.00 per hour for each artist and \$3.50 for the leader when an orchestra is playing. These rates will apply to all commercial stations.

The association, which is a branch of the American Federation of Musicians, controls most of the orchestras and bands of Ottawa and Hull. The president is Oswald May and the secretary, M. Muhlberg.

Canada's Woollen Industry is Seriously Threatened

Ruinous Competition of Foreign Woollens Under Decreased Customs Tariff and Depreciated Exchange Rates Has Caused Serious Situation

By E. Stanley Bates

Once again the woollen manufacturing industry of this country is being threatened with extinction. The difficulties experienced during the half-decade, 1900 to 1905, are again confronting the industry, augmented by the generally upset economic conditions throughout the world. The drastic results that followed the granting of the British preferential tariff in 1899 are being repeated. Many woollen mills are being forced to close their doors, others are operating short time, few are operating at a profit, and importations of woollens are increasing each month.

The woollen schedule in the Canadian Customs tariff has been used as a political football in nearly every tariff revision performed since Confederation. No Canadian industry has suffered more from political meddling and tariff tinkering. Woollen clothing is a prime necessity in Canada so that it has been easy to make political capital out of its manufacture. Politicians have either failed or refused to obtain any close knowledge of the industry, its indigenous character, its importance in our industrial development or the variety of problems affecting its different branches. During the budget debate Hansard is filled with the greatest twaddle on the subject of woollens. No definite tariff policy to encourage rapid development of the industry has ever been enforced in Canada.

In fact, since 1889 the tariff has favored importations of woollens from England. Our preferential tariff is of such importance to British woollen manufacturers that the Bradford Chamber of Commerce maintained a lobby in Ottawa for some time prior to the bringing down of the 1923 budget. The president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce said openly that this lobby was largely instrumental in obtaining the 1923 increase in the preference to British goods. The result has been disastrous to the woollen manufacturing industry here, and continuation of the present conditions will surely result in complete disaster. Immediate steps must be taken to improve the situation.

Early Development of the Industry

The manufacture of woollens in Canada commenced with the earliest colonists. Records of the first French settlements give accounts of the manufacture of coarse homespuns and woollen cloth. As population increased small carding and fulling mills were set up in every community to supply yarn for home weaving and knitting. Many of these small plants developed in line with the progress in England and elsewhere. As early as 1820, records show that complete woollen manufacturing plants were operating in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. British settlers included many from the woollen manufacturing districts, and quite a number of the present-day establishments were started by these people.

According to the census of 1871 there were 279 establishments in Canada where woollen manufacturing was carried on. The annual wage bill was \$917,827 and the value of the products amounted to \$5,507,548. The industry prospered during these times, until in 1899 the annual production amounted to some 13,992,000 yards of woollen cloth, valued at over \$15,000,000.

First Serious Blow

The first serious blow that struck the industry was the preferential tariff put into effect in 1899. Between that year and 1907 eighty-eight mills were forced to go out of business. British goods flooded the Canadian market in a direct attempt to close down all woollen mills in this country. By 1910 there were only 75 woollen and worsted weaving mills in operation, producing about seven and a half million yards of cloth annually.

The knitting trade did not fare so badly. Reorganization of the industry brought about the development of a large and prosperous knitting industry. During the war years all mills were exceedingly busy, and to the credit of the Canadian woollen and knitted goods manufacturers

they met the great demand satisfactorily without profiteering or scandal. Generally speaking, profits were used to re-equipping and enlarging their plants. The industry emerged from the war years in a flourishing condition.

The census of industry taken in 1920 showed a total of 94 woollen and worsted weaving mills operating in Canada, having a combined capital investment of \$22,785,219. This branch of the woollen industry employed a total of 7,386 workers, paying \$7,011,563. In salaries and wages. The value of products amounted to \$40,688,467.

The census of industry report of the hosiery and knit-goods industry in 1921 includes both woollen and cotton knitting. The figures, however, show the importance of the industry. Well over 50 per cent. of the values noted have to do with the woollen branch of the industry. The report shows that 127 plants were operating in that year, with a total capital investment of \$37,906,361. Salaries and wages amounted to \$8,399,273. The number of employees was 10,447. The total value of products was \$36,689,534.

Both branches of the industry suffered great losses by the depreciation of inventories caused by the slump in prices during 1920 and 1921. Then on top of these losses, just when trade was beginning to improve in 1922, the Customs tariff was again tinkered with. The budgets of 1922 and 1923 each brought down increases in the British preference. These increases have seriously affected both branches of the woollen industry. The consequences will be dealt with later on in this article.

Woollen Manufacturing in Industrial Development

The woollen industry is one that furnishes employment for whole families. Many towns in Eastern Canada have been built up around one or two woollen mills which furnished the livelihood for the population. Woollen manufacturing provides well paid, clean, healthy employment of the best kind. A mill with a turnover from three to four hundred thou-

sand dollars a year furnishes employment supporting a town of about 1,000 population. To-day there are a number of towns in Eastern Canada where the chief industrial activity is woollen and allied manufacture. There is no industry better suited to small town development, and these small urban industrial communities are among our greatest assets. They provide nearby markets for the small produce of the farmers. The best agricultural communities in Canada to-day are those surrounding live-industrial towns. This applies to all textile manufacturing. The same conditions exist in other countries where the industry has developed. In England and the New England States such woollen manufacturing towns are counted in the hundreds.

The foregoing facts are scarcely realized by the average layman, and certainly not by the average politician. Nor do they attempt to differentiate between the different branches of the industry. The textile industry is divided into two great branches, that of woollen manufacturing and that of cotton manufacturing. The woollen industry embraces worsted manufacture, woollen carding and spinning, woollen and worsted weaving and woollen knitting. All branches of the industry are represented in Canada in more or less degree, and while they have much in common, trade problems affecting one branch of the industry very often only slightly affect the others. Therefore, on such a question as tariffs, an intimate knowledge of the conditions and requirements of each branch is necessary before intelligent handling can be accomplished.

The basis of worsted manufacture is the method employed in the manufacture of the wool into yarn. The process is one of combing by which the shorter fibres are removed. In woollen manufacture there is no combing operation, and generally speaking the shorter types of wools are utilized. A rough division of the fabrics classified according to one or the other of these processes is, as follows: Worsted—Serges, broadcloths, carpets, hand-knitting yarns, fine hosiery, fine underwear and sweaters; Woollen—Tweeds, homespuns, overcoatings, blankets, velours, cassimeres, rugs, flannels, blankets, coarse hosiery and underwear. Throughout the world the industry is divided about two-thirds woollen and one-third worsted manufacturing. This relationship holds good in Canada. (To be continued in next issue)

Canadian Labor at Empire Exhibition

Canadian organized labor will be represented at the coming inter-empire conference, representative both of the trades union movement, which is to be held in London during the British Empire Exhibition. The executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which had the matter under consideration, has accepted an invitation to be represented at the conference and representatives will be chosen in due course.

The conference is regarded as one of the most important ever called under the auspices either of the trades union movement or of the political labor movement. Subjects under discussion will, to a certain extent, parallel those considered at the recent imperial conference, namely: Development of inter-empire trade, emigration, status of British subjects within the empire and so forth.

Special interest will be attached to the conference in view of the accession to power of a Labor government in Great Britain.

Gustave Franq Off to Europe

Picked By Commission to Study Workmen's Compensation Abroad

Montreal, Que.—Gustave Franq, member of the Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation appointed by the Provincial Government, has been authorized by the Commission to proceed to Europe to study and report on workmen's compensation laws in Great Britain, France and Belgium.

No answer has yet been returned by Mr. Franq, who received his authorization by telegram recently. Should he accept, he will leave almost immediately and will be away only five or six weeks, returning in the latter part of the month of May, in time for the return visits of the Commission to Montreal and Quebec. The Commission will sit in these cities to receive summaries of arguments and seek additional information on various points on which they may desire enlightenment after perusal of the full reports of the proceedings to date.

TRANSPORT WORKERS

Germany.—In a conference of the German Traffic Federation held recently, the president said that during the last few weeks there had been so general an improvement in the trade union position that it might safely be declared that the trade unions were now over the worst. The Federation is about to dissolve its connection with the National Working Alliance of Employers and Employees in the Germany Transport Industry.

IF WE DO NOT PROTECT OUR OWN COUNTRY, NOBODY ELSE WILL!

We ask the citizens of Canada who love their country to fight for

ADEQUATE PROTECTIVE TARIFF!

year agreement in line with the one adopted at the international convention early in the year, and an adjustment of inequalities, which would make an average increase in wages of ten per cent. The operators offer to renew the present contract for the period of one year, less war bonus of \$1.17 a day.

Labor Government Drop Rent Bill

Premier MacDonald Announces Abandonment of Liberal Measure

London, Eng.—Having been forced to drop the Government's rent bill for the time being, as a measure defeated on its second reading, cannot be reintroduced at the same session of Parliament, Premier MacDonald announced in the House of Commons that the Government would adopt the bill of Ernest Simon, Liberal, known as the "prevention of evictions bill." The Premier added that the Government would give this bill all facilities to insure its further progress after it has been subjected in committee to certain additions and amendments which he thought would prove satisfactory to all sides.

U.S. Miners on Strike

Kansas City, Mo.—Coal miners in southwestern states left their jobs and will not return until an agreement is reached, with negotiations between union representatives and mine operators now in progress here.

The old wage contract expired at midnight March 31st. Miners took their usual April 1st holiday and are not expected to return to work until an agreement is reached by a sub-committee of miners and operators in conference here.

Approximately 40,000 men are affected, according to union heads. Efforts to arrange a 90-day contract to keep the men at work during further negotiations were futile. The operators demand wages be reduced, while the miners are insisting upon renewing the old agreement for three years.

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