

# MR. COCKSHUTT'S SPEECH ON THE TARIFF QUESTION

Hansard Report Shows Logical Conclusion Reached by Brantford Member on Most Important Issue.

The important speech of Mr. W. F. Cockshutt, M.P., as delivered according to Hansard will be published in The Courier, but owing to the lengthy nature publication will necessarily have to be in instalments, the first of which is given to-day:

"Mr. Speaker, I shall have occasion to refer to a few remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Turfiff) later on. The hon. gentleman assigned me an hour and a half to dispose of him, but I hope to be able to deal with his remarks in much less time than that. The Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance (Hon. W. T. White), this year has been looked forward to with more than ordinary interest, and I think I may say, without flattery to the hon. minister that he has more than fulfilled the expectations of the people of Canada have of him. The air has been materially cleared by the pronouncement made by the hon. gentleman on financial matters, and in masterly style he has dealt with every phase of the commercial and financial life of our country. The question of our national finances has been ably dealt with by the Finance Minister and by the hon. member of St. Antoine (Mr. Ames) so that in the time at my disposal, I shall endeavor to treat of other features of our financial and commercial life. The clean-cut and well-defined line

which the Minister of Finance has drawn between the political parties in Canada, in reference to the protective tariff, will carry assurance to the minds of all Canadians, and in declaring that the Conservative party shall stand by Canadian industries whether agricultural industries or manufacturing industries, the hon. gentleman has enunciated a policy in the best interests of the Dominion. When the policy announced by the Minister of Finance in his speech is fully understood, and when his speech has been read, as I believe it will be from end to end of the Dominion, his utterances will bring reassurance to the minds of those who may have been panic-stricken by the vagaries of hon. gentlemen opposite. The immediate outlook as foreshadowed by the Minister of Finance, though not as good as it has been in some years, is still very encouraging. The country as a whole is sound; but we have, I am sorry to say, several legacies left over by the late government that have imposed tremendous responsibility upon the people of Canada, and very onerous duties on the Minister of Finance, to provide for them. I am safe in saying that no government ever existed in the Dominion which left a greater legacy of debt and encumbrances than did the late Laurier administration.

I regret that the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) is not in the House at the moment. He bewailed that a settled gloom was spreading over the Dominion of Canada. I think those were his words. Where are the good times gone, he bemoaned, that were in vogue during the Laurier regime. How is it that depression is spreading over the land and you cannot see a ray of sunshine anywhere? This, if it were true, would be a very great reflection upon the gentlemen who he supported in power for the past sixteen years. Let us ask for a moment what constitutes good times: what is the sum and substance of good times. Is it to pick up on the streets money that you have not earned? Is it to get a contract at twice as much as should be paid for it? Is it to have a cinch in supplying some government department with goods that are not worth so cents on the dollar for what should be supplied? If such be the case, then certainly we have had good times during the past sixteen years, because at no other time has money been scattered about the Dominion of Canada without receiving returns for it in the way that it has been by the late government. I am sorry to make so severe a statement as that, but I am speaking exactly what I believe as a business man when I say that there have been millions—it would almost startle me if I were to mention the figures, after hearing that \$40,000,000 had been squandered in one enterprise—of the money of the country paid out, for

what? For nothing that is a tangible asset to-day, and for nothing that can ever hope to earn a dividend for the people of Canada.

Take the railway that I have just mentioned, conceived, as I believe, in political jobbery, and carried on with extravagance and political iniquity, so that to-day we are face to face with a report that says that upwards of \$40,000,000 of the public money has been spent in that extravagant way. My right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), a gentleman whom I respect very highly stated that he admitted that mistakes might have been made, but that anything that had been mispent had been the result of a mistake. I only wish I could accept those words at their face value; but I am sorry to say, after looking into the report and after reviewing very carefully the course of my hon. friends opposite for the sixteen years they were in power, I cannot accept that statement at all. That railway, which was built as a monument to my right hon. friend, and to the Dominion of Canada, was not a mistake according to his own judgment in the first place. He went into it with his eyes open. Why do I say it was not a mistake? Let my right hon. friend refer for a moment to the speech of the then Minister of Railways, the Hon. A. G. Blair. Let him read that speech from beginning to end, and tell me whether or not he was warned that he was embarking upon an enterprise that was of the very worst character in every way. What did the Hon. A. G. Blair say? He told these gentlemen that their figures were all false; that their \$13,000,000 and their \$61,000,000 were false. He said: I cannot support a proposition like that before my fellow members. As will be seen, my seat in the government and step out rather than tell the people of Canada that a railway can be built for \$13,000,000 or \$61,000,000. I know it is going to cost \$120,000,000. All credit to the Hon. A. G. Blair who stepped out of the government and said: I refuse to be a party to a government that launches a scheme on the Dominion of Canada knowing that it is going to cost five times more than it was said it would, and that, in the building of it, takes none of the ordinary business precautions to see that a dollar's worth is got for a dollar. The whole thing from start to finish was carried on with the idea that no matter how much money we put into it, the Grand Trunk Pacific has to pay 3 per cent. on the cost and the country cannot lose. Thus they went on and spent that vast sum on the enterprise, a large part of which hangs to-day in the balance as to whether it will pay in the next fifteen to twenty-five years—in an enterprise vastly in advance of its time, vastly in advance of all the requirements of the eastern section of the country through which it runs, and according to the best information we have in railway circles, entirely unnecessary in so far as the section from Lewis to Moncton is concerned because it parallels a road that is already short of traffic. No wonder that good times, according to their measure, prevailed in the estimation of hon. gentlemen opposite. Can good times consist simply in making money rapidly, regardless of how it is made? Can good times consist in a party throwing money around to its friends without receiving value back in the interest of the country? If such can be done, certainly they had good times; but as I understand good times they are a very different matter.

Let hon. gentlemen opposite look back over their career and see some of the deeds they committed during those so-called good times. I think my hon. friends, if they review their whole course, will say: We did something more than make mistakes; we condoned offences that never should have been condoned. If there is one fault I have to lay to my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition—and I am sorry to have to lay this charge against him—it is that he was too fond of power to punish the wrong doer in his own party, and, on account of that, he was led into committing many offences against the public interest. That is a strong statement to make, but let me recall two or three of those mistakes. Let me refer to the North Atlantic Trading Company, a creation of my hon. friend opposite, which got from \$300,000 to \$500,000 from the people of this country with no value received. Let me refer to the cruise of the Neptune, which went up among the Esquimaux and converted some of the heathen to the ways of the Laurier government and spent some thousands of dollars of government money in visiting the wilds of the north and brought back a tale of rascality like of which was never before untravelled in this country. Let me recall a similar matter, which shows a spirit that should never have entered this House—which took place only in the last Parliament, when Mr. Lanctot, the former member for Richelieu, painted his house at Sorel and fixed it up in good shape at the government's expense. Small matter, you say; but often small matters show which way the wind blows. That was proved up to the hilt and admitted by himself, and his cheque was sent to cover it after he was caught and not before. Good times for the hon. member for Richelieu; very good times. The lamentable part of it was that, instead of meeting out to that hon. gentleman the punishment that was due, the Liberal party headed by the right hon. gentleman opposite and supported by every man behind him, white washed this gentleman from head to foot and gave him a character to go free. Does that constitute a high ideal, either

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commercial or political, to set up before the people of Canada. I do not call that good times; I call that evil days. If there is one charge against my right hon. friend that stands out and that will stand out in the history of Canada it is that, under the Laurier Government, political morality and commercial morality sank to the lowest ebb at which it has ever been since Confederation. If hon. gentlemen on this side will take warning by what has happened on the other side we shall be glad; but if we should harden our hearts and run astray, as hon. gentlemen opposite did, for my part I hope I shall be lashed rather than sit in this House and vote through such rascalities as those I have mentioned in order that we may stay in power. Mr. Proulx: Did you vote for the Prince Albert deal?

Mr. Cockshutt: I have not heard of any Prince Albert deal.

Mr. Proulx: The Prince Albert land deal.

Mr. Cockshutt: No Prince Albert land deal has ever come before the House so far as I know. With regard to land deals I may say that mighty little land was left to deal in after my hon. friends went out of power. If my hon. friend had applied to the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turfiff) the remark which he has made, he might have obtained some information on the point; the hon. member for Assiniboia could tell him a thing or two about land deals. The Saskatchewan Valley Land Co. and other such matters are still fresh in the public memory. Although I have mentioned a few scandals, I have touched only the fringe of them, as the hon. member for Assiniboia knows full well, though he was so busy with implements that he did not have time to touch upon the land deals of the late government. I should think that my hon. friend, in talking so much about implements and advocating their free importation into this country, should have had in mind the one implement that his party imported in connection with the deal of which I have spoken. Our Finance Minister has had to pay \$12,000,000 for that implement already. Land deals certainly came on thick and fast during the time the late administration held office.



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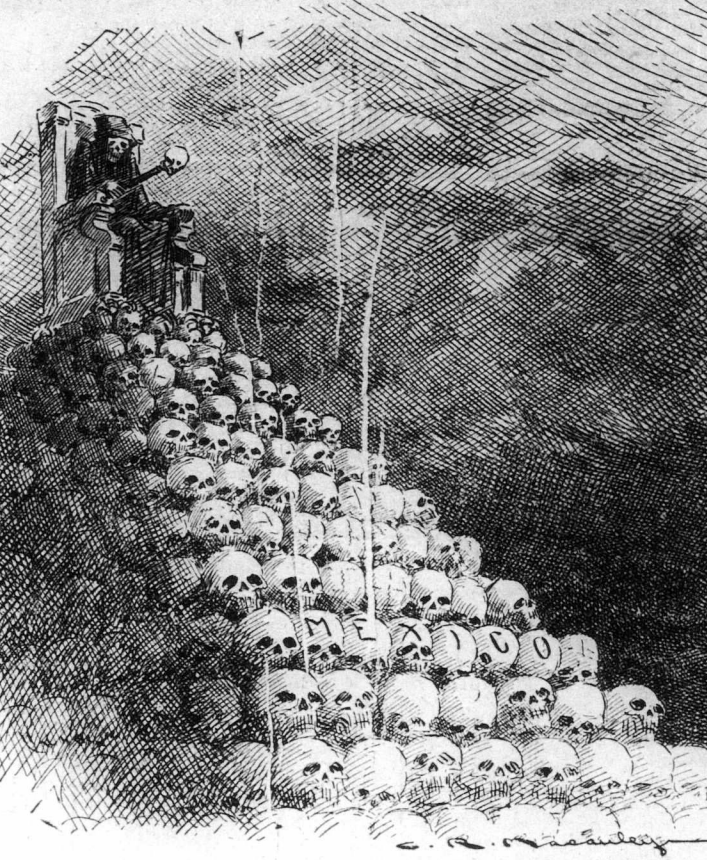
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10 Pages

FORTY-FOURTH

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Spelndid Address  
J. H. Fisher, M.  
Mr. Westbrook.

Member for Brantford  
ed Liberal Hypothesis  
on Liquor Question

The policy of the Conservative party and the Workmen's Compensation Act were ably discussed by the representative of North Brant at the School House, Mr. J. H. Fisher, at the Dominion House at Ottawa. Mr. J. W. Westbrook of the local House at Toronto, addressed a gathering of electors, and many Conservative supporters. Mr. Westbrook introduced the speaker, who truly needed no introduction. Opening the meeting, upon Mr. R. T. Hall, the President of the local branch.

MR. J. H. FISHER.



Who Pointed to the Fine Effective Style.

the Borden Club, who said that Conservative by birth, and a native by conviction. The was to gain views upon generations, including that of the Reform party. All the time the Reform party had had a one hundredth part of that party by the Whitney party, since came into power and yet they forward to-day and state that once was one of their principles. We must not rest behind the four Brants at the The Reform party had not put their finger upon a sign of mismanagement by the party. He, the speaker, was to the men present to be coming campaign. They splendid representatives in er and Mr. Westbrook. T could not have better. He electors would do better in ing election, than they had in the past, for these tried servants. He closed with a British quotation of "What we'll hold."

Mr. Fisher's Views

Mr. Fisher then was called upon and responded, saying, that included this meeting to be a political affair. He complimented audience upon their excellent which was one of the many Brant County was foremost province. He made sympathy to the memory of Wm. Paterson. His conference Westbrooks, was then the an enthusiastic eulogium to the Grit organ, Mr. Ham Scott Davidson, were addressed to the House at Toronto, but not at all sure that this case electing them was success knew that Mr. Westbrook strong for such a position to have

Rural Mail.  
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Agricultural Grant.  
A Bill to grant \$10,000,000 benefit of agricultural affairs introduced, to be mainly education on the subject. G could only be made when the of national agricultural education been decided upon. The proved success in France many.

(Continued on Page 11)

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