

The Evening Times and Star

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UNFORTUNATE

From an interview with Mr. Frank Clements, of the Clements Company, wholesale produce dealer of St. John, printed by the Standard on September 24— "Asked about the price of potatoes...

It is unfortunate that the director of the Standard's editorial columns last Monday did not consult the Standard's local columns and read with care the authoritative statement credited to Mr. Clements before attempting to contradict the Telegraph's Harland correspondent, who said that potatoes were being sold at from fifty to sixty cents a barrel.

Correspondents of the Telegraph in Woodstock and in Harland present in today's issue corroborate the earlier reports from Harland, and show that while Arrostook potatoes are being sold at from \$1 to \$1.25 per barrel, the prices in Carleton county range from fifty cents to seventy cents, and that the starch factory of Maine are paying for undressed and imperfect potatoes virtually the same price that is being received for good potatoes in New Brunswick.

The Standard's explanation of the low price in Carleton county is that "dealers dropped the price the other day to sixty cents to prevent a lot of poor quality potatoes getting on the market." This carelessness on the part of the dealer, and the double delight all farmers who draw instruction from the Conservative newspaper.

There is one aspect of the trade question with respect to potatoes which all Standardists ought to consider, and which all rural readers undoubtedly have considered already. If the American price for potatoes is not higher than the New Brunswick price, no New Brunswick potato farmer can grow, even from the Standard's viewpoint. As the Standard contends that the home market affords the farmer as good a price as he can secure anywhere, but as the farmer does not think so, and even adduces evidence to support his belief, the fair thing to do is to permit him to try the American market, since it is certain that he will not trade across the line at a loss.

If the Standard is still afraid that the sale of Canadian potatoes in the United States will lead to "an entangling trade alliance with a foreign country," it should explain to the farmer how it is that the Canadian manufacturers were able recently to place \$150,000,000 worth of insurance with American companies without involving us in one of those undesirable alliances, and how Canadian milling companies, at certain seasons, proceed to purchase American wheat without wrecking the Imperial fabric.

Is the loyalty of the farmer less valuable, or less reliable, than the loyalty of the manufacturer? Also, the Conservative journal should not fail to remember that a majority of the people of New Brunswick voted for free access to additional markets, and that, with the exception of Ontario, a considerable majority of the people of the whole Dominion did likewise.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING For reasons that are not wholly clear, but mainly because they wish to buttress the cause of high protection in Canada, Conservative journals in this country are continually misrepresenting trade conditions in Great Britain. Canadians are daily told by these agents of the "interests" that the Old Country is being ruined by free trade, and that it is absolutely necessary to place the British manufacturer protection against Germany and the United States. Anyone honestly desiring to know what the truth is should read the following editorial paragraph from the London Daily News:

"The tariff reformers who under the inspiring leadership of the Duke of Westminster promise us a revival of protectionist propaganda, will not, we may be sure, place the new volume issued by the board of trade in the forefront of their campaign. But it will be well for free traders to supply the deficiency. For the Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom shatters the whole basis upon which tariff reform was constructed. It was in 1900 that Mr. Chamberlain launched his scheme. He launched it on the assumption that the sun of British industry was setting—had, indeed, almost set. Wherever he looked he saw ruin and decay. 'Agriculture,' he said, 'has been practically destroyed, sugar has gone, silk has gone, iron is threatened, wool is threatened, cotton will go. The dirge is familiar; but we make no apology for repeating it, for it is upon that nightmare vision that the whole case of the tariff reformer rests. Nine years have passed, and today we have before us the record of the progress of British industry during the past fifteen years.

ST. JOHN'S POSITION IN RECIPROcity TREATY WITH WEST INDIES

It is a record without parallel in our annals or in the annals of any other people—a record of uninterrupted and splendid progress. Let us take merely as an illustration those trades which, according to Mr. Chamberlain, were 'going' or 'gone.' Since the year in which he spoke our iron and steel exports have increased in value from thirty to forty-three millions, cotton from twenty-four to 120 millions, wool from 21,900,000 to 22,800,000. The tendency is not peculiar to these trades, but characteristic of the whole, the total increase in eight years having been from 234 to 262 millions, or 34.6 per cent. An export trade which increases by more than half in seven years is 'going' indeed, but not in the sense in which Mr. Chamberlain intended.

"We may leave the tariff reformers to resurrect their case out of the unpropitious material. A much more vital question awaits the consideration of those who are concerned with realities rather than fancies. British industry under free trade is expanding beyond example." At the time Mr. Chamberlain reversed his whole record and began to advocate protection, British industries were temporarily at a standstill, but the progress they have made since 1903 has negated all of Mr. Chamberlain's contentions. Where he saw ruin and decay there are now to be seen only healthful conditions and vigorous expansion of trade.

The Nationalist leaders have gone to Ottawa to wrestle with Mr. Borden, Colonel Hughes and other patriots. As the Nationalists were largely influential in placing Mr. Borden in power, his situation is an awkward one.

The by-election in Brandon, Manitoba, which is to occur on October 12, will come along just as the Manitoba farmers are having daily proof that the price of wheat in Minneapolis is higher than they can obtain at home. It is difficult to persuade those men that they have not a right to sell where the price is best.

From the North Shore come news of another fatal gunning accident. New Brunswickers are more accustomed to handling firearms than the people of most other countries, yet it seems that the rules of care and competence in the woods have not yet been sufficiently enforced. The careful gunner never fails to remember that the most scrupulous care is necessary.

Addresses delivered last evening by Commissioner Schofield and Mr. R. H. Bruce had the right ring. The commissioner's remarks give the public an idea how steadily progress is being made under commission, and Mr. Bruce's estimate of present conditions in St. John and his forecast of our growth make up a well-considered utterance calculated to remind our people of the speed with which things are justifying the confidence we are justified in entertaining regarding the year to come.

R. M. Rive Draws Attention to Important Considerations in Interests of This Port To the Editor of the Times: Sir—At the next meeting of parliament a very important measure will come up for the consideration of the people's representatives which should have a particular interest to the people of St. John. I refer to the Canadian West Indies reciprocity treaty.

As I understand this treaty, if adopted, it offers to a certain class of Canadian manufacturers and products a tariff preference of twenty per cent. in the West Indian markets over the manufacturers and products of other countries and "vice versa" allows a preference to the products of the West Indies coming into Canada. These are the main features of the agreement. But there are two clauses which may be added to the treaty to which I wish to call particular attention and the insertion of which will mean a great deal to the City of St. John and the Province of New Brunswick.

These are the clauses:— Firstly—That the governments of any of the West Indies accepting the agreement may provide that to be entitled to the concessions granted under the treaty the products of Canada shall be conveyed by ship direct without transshipment from Canadian port into the West Indies. Secondly—That the government of Canada may provide that to be entitled to com-

COLOMBUS TENDERS

The City of St. John invites tenders for the furnishing and placing of radiators in lunch rooms in dock sheds on the western side of the harbor. Plans and specifications to be seen in the office of the City Engineer, City Hall. A cash deposit, equal to five per cent. of the estimated full cost of the work must accompany each tender.

Tenders will be received in the office of the Common Clerk, City Hall, on 11th of Saturday, October 6th, 1912, and none will be considered unless on the form supplied by the City Engineer.

The City does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. H. B. SCHOFIELD, Commissioner of Harbor, Ferries and Public Lands. ADAM F. McINTYRE, Comptroller. St. John, N. B., Oct. 1st, 1912. 10153-104.

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