

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1921

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THE ARTFUL DODGERS.

Taxation, the tariff, the railways and unemployment are problems with which the next parliament must deal. To waste time as the prime minister and his colleagues are doing in describing what would happen under free trade is not to contribute to public knowledge of these other problems or aid in their solution. What does Mr. Meighen hope to gain by appearing on a platform where Hon. Mackenzie King had but the day before repudiated free trade and telling the people that free trade is the issue? The people are not deceived. They know the leaders of the Liberal party and they know how prosperous the country was under Liberal rule. Mr. H. J. Logan, the Liberal candidate in Cumberland, put the case very aptly yesterday when he said that "the flinching tariff policy had made a busy Amherst and a prosperous country." The people will not believe the government leader when he pictures the dreadful condition to which the Liberals would reduce Canada. His own government has created conditions that call for the intervention of men at Ottawa who will be able to do after 1921 what the Laurier government did after 1896. The Toronto Globe says: "The tariff must be thoroughly and carefully revised, with a view to removing burdens from the home, from the necessities of life and from industry and of getting rid of anomalies and inequalities that work injustice and hamper industry. We believe that revision can be made to increase prosperity. While the course pursued in 1897 is not to be slavishly followed, and new conditions must be considered, yet the revision of 1897 fulfils a good example of carefulness, courage, business capacity and grasp of industrial conditions, and the forthcoming revision should be undertaken in a similar way."

It will not do to trust tariff revision to the men who speak only for class and who have had ample time to make a revision but failed even to attempt to do so. They have failed also to grapple successfully with the problems of taxation, of the railways and of unemployment. The country demands a change.

HIGH TARIFF AND TRADE

Hon. Mr. Stevens, our new minister of trade and commerce, is thus taken to hand by the Winnipeg Free Press: "Our new minister of trade and commerce is our thorough-going protectionist government would like to encourage exports to Australia, but finds a difficulty in the securing of return cargoes. Doesn't Mr. Stevens know that return cargoes mean imported goods which will spread devastation, ruin and poverty in our fair land? Away with return cargoes! Mr. Stevens' job is to export the largest possible amount of Canadian goods and bring nothing back in payment."

Mr. Stevens would find in Mr. J. W. Fordney, author of the Fordney tariff bill in the United States, a man after his own heart. In a recent speech at the national conference of Manufacturers' Associations in Chicago, Mr. Fordney said: "We are importing at the rate of about \$200,000,000 worth of foreign goods per month into the United States. Most of these goods could be made here. There is not a manufactured article produced in the United States in which the labor cost is less than 10 per cent of the total cost—following the raw material from start to finish. Now, if this is true of the \$200,000,000 that we are sending abroad each month to buy foreign made goods, \$200,000,000 is going out from the people of the United States to employ German, French, English, Japanese and Chinese labor, while our own workers walk the streets in idleness."

We cannot expose more effectively the Stevens-Fordney fallacy than in the words of the New York Evening Post, which is as severe on Fordney as the Winnipeg Free Press is on Stevens. The Post says: "The fairly common view that commerce is essentially an exchange of goods instead of an exchange of money for goods, is here neatly destroyed by ignoring it. Wisconsin may say that the United States pays for its \$200,000,000 of imports by selling \$200,000,000 of exports, and that great numbers of workmen are busy producing, manufacturing and shipping these exports. Mr. Fordney knows better. He knows that under the Underwood tariff our foolish nation hires millions of foreign workmen to produce for it, while the wily foreigner never by any chance hires an American. Some men who would like to have trade stimulated think that the only way to get Europe to buy more of our goods is to do a reasonable amount of buying in Europe. Mr. Fordney's answer to such folly is: Cut our imports to one-sixth their present figure. William Graham Sumner used to say

that every high protectionist was forced to regard trade as at least a suspicious and doubtful thing. Poor Prof. Sumner never conceived that an intellect like Fordney's would range our country. Mr. Fordney regards trade as a positive evil."

A "TACTICAL MISTAKE"

Premier Meighen's "voluntary wheat pool" thrown out to catch the farmer vote in the west has already got him into trouble. The Toronto Telegram, Conservative, says: "Unanimously opposed may be said to be the verdict of Toronto grain dealers and exporters to the scheme broached by Premier Meighen at Portage la Prairie, whereby farmers may market their grain and produce through a voluntary government pool in charge of a board of five men. One of the most vital objections to the scheme is that while the premier is appealing to industry and labor on his protective tariff policy, he is proposing to remove in this scheme whatever of protection the grain dealers and exporters now enjoy."

To prove the accuracy of its statement, the Telegram quotes Mr. W. B. Browne, head of a large firm of flour and grain exporters, who said: "I will vote against him (Meighen) if he puts this scheme into effect. He will find that he will have all the grain men and millers, as well as most of the farmers, against him. Personally, however, I think the scheme is a fake. The grain men are already up in arms, and it will not suit the farmers, either. If the government went into it they would lose money. Look what the wheat board cost the country, as well as the manner in which they made price to the consumer much higher than they should have been. I think the premier has made a serious tactical mistake."

CALLS IT STUPIDITY.

Here is a sentence from the New York Times that is worth pondering over in connection with Premier Meighen's high tariff talk: "It is instructive, while depressing, to note how the American lurch back into high protection is accompanied by a similar stupidity in Canada."

The American lurch back into high protection, however, has not produced satisfactory results. The emergency tariff bill has not benefited the American farmer to any appreciable extent, and all over the country there is a reaction so pronounced that the permanent tariff bill will not be adopted this year. The Canadian Tories hoped it would be, but they are now asserting that it is only a question of time, and that the only salvation of this country is the return of the Meighen government to power. This attitude on their part assumes that the Liberals and Farmers are out to destroy Canadian industries, and it will provoke derision in the country. The real danger is that Canada may be duped into the "similar stupidity" to which the New York Times refers. The need of this country is a tariff that will benefit producers and consumers, and not one to enrich a class.

Mr. John M. Lalor, a Toronto wool merchant, has been offering a criticism of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He thinks it is not enough to press the sale of Made-in-Canada goods. He would have those goods of such quality as would ensure their sale. They have to compete with the best goods of foreign manufacture. Mr. Lalor therefore insists that it is of little use for manufacturers who are producing unreliable goods to work on the cry "Made in Canada" and protest that their product is the best in the world. The retail shopper cannot be so deceived, especially the feminine portion. The C. M. A. he says, instead of trying to perfect their advertising, should urge their members to perfect the goods they advertise.

THE RAILWAY QUESTION

(Moncton Transcript.) Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King has declared himself in favor of having the management of the old Intercolonial railway vested in an office in the Maritime Provinces. Hon. F. B. McCurdy, Minister of Public Works, has expressed the opinion that it would be a mistake to divorce the government railways in the East from the rest of the Canadian National Railway system, but is willing to concede the advisability of establishing an eastern division, or unit, under the control of a staff located in the Maritimes.

The Liberal Leader believes in responsible government, and we take it, he means that the management of the old Intercolonial should be responsible to the Minister of Railways, who in his turn is responsible to the cabinet and parliament. His main criticism of the present government's railway policy has been that it failed to fix responsibility—that the Board of Railway directors appointed by the government seemed to be able to do as they pleased—that information demanded by the people's representatives in parliament regarding railway affairs was not forthcoming. It is precisely a return to the old system of responsible administration of our Eastern railways, a thing guaranteed by the confederation compact, that the Maritime Board of Trade and business men generally have been asking. There need be no divorce from the rest of the National system in the matter of handling traffic. There might be better co-operation between divisions than appears to exist at present. When Canadian grain is being routed to Portland, Boston and other American ports, and the old I. C. R. would not be called

RED AND GOLD.

How gently o'er Minot's lake
The ripples woo his mossy shore;
While vagrant zephyrs lightly shake
The trees which cast their shadows o'er.

In Autumn time so fairer scene
Did bounteous Nature o'er unfold
When first were robed in richest green,
And maple leaves are red and gold.

The forests of Romance are fair,
Famed Sherwood's glades, and Birnam's woods;
But thou art vast beyond compare,
Minot's sylvan solitudes.

And ever, when I think of trees,
Minot's silent aisles shall hold
One of my fondest memories;
When maple leaves were red and gold.
HOPE A. THOMSON.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Inkpen, the journalist, had just come to live in the little suburb, and, of course, as all newcomers to any district always do, he was the cause of great interest to his neighbors.

Wimple called upon him one evening. "Snooks today," he started off, "that you push a pencil for a living."

"That's so, I do," replied Inkpen. "I think it's very foolish of you," frankly replied Wimple.

"Why?" asked Inkpen. "Because," Wimple should be lead," explained Wimple.

Inkpen had not then learned that Wimple was the "Wag of the Village."

Egbert, the "egg king," was about to make a counter with a new manager, who carefully pointed out the requirements of the situation. "I understand," he said, "that you eat six dozen eggs at a sitting."

"I do, indeed," responded the applicant for the place.

"I suppose," said the manager, "that you know that we have four shows every day and six on Saturday, while on holidays we frequently give a performance every hour."

Egbert hesitated. "In that case," he finally said, "I must have one thing clearly understood before I sign a contract, and that is that no matter how rushing the business I must have time to eat my regular meals at the hotel."

Nothing But The Truth.

Lawyer—And what was the defendant doing meanwhile?
Witness—He was telling me a funny story.

Lawyer—Remember, sir, that you are under oath.
Witness—Well, anyway, he was telling me a story—Pearson's Weekly (London.)

EXHUME BODY OF E. F. SEARLES

Anonymous Reports Made to Attorney that Rich Recluse was Poisoned.

The body of Edward F. Searles, a reclusive farmer of Methuen, Mass., has been ordered exhumed for the purpose of holding an autopsy. District Attorney S. S. Howard Deane, in making this announcement, which followed anonymous reports to him that Searles was poisoned, said he had no evidence at present to warrant a belief that death was due to poison or violence.

The body of Searles was interred in a tomb on his walled estate at Methuen. District Attorney Deane said he would request permission of Methuen authorities at once for its removal.

The principal beneficiary of his millions was Arthur T. Walker, of New York, who assisted him in legal matters. The estate has been variously estimated to be worth from \$14,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

In bringing suit several months ago for a larger share of the estate, Albert Victor Searles, of Boston, a nephew of the millionaire, asserted that his uncle was of unsound mind during the latter years of his life. A conspiracy to influence the provisions of the will, which was drawn two weeks before Searles died, was charged.

The suit of the nephew was settled out of court, with the result, it was reported, that Searles received several millions instead of the \$250,000 provided by the will.

The Searles fortune was largely that of Mark Hopkins, California railroad magnate, whose widow Searles married, and he testified in a court proceeding, "partly out of affection and partly for her money."

The chief beneficiary under the will of Edward F. Searles, Methuen, Mass., millionaire, was Arthur T. Walker, a native of Cedar Springs, Kent county, Ontario.

The filing for probate at Salem, Mass., in August, 1920, of the Searles will created a sensation in New York financial circles, for it placed in the hands of a man almost unknown in Wall street, and one who was understood never to have occupied a higher post than bookkeeper and private secretary, a sum estimated at approximately \$40,000,000.

Walker had been associated with Searles for some years, and for a considerable period prior to the financier's death had managed the latter's business from modest quarters in the rear of an office building on Broadway.

At the time the contents of the will became public, Walker resided in two small rooms in Brooklyn. Always retiring, he kept himself in strict seclusion until after settlement of a contest that arose over the will, which was brought by Albert Victor Searles, a nephew of the dead man. The latter is understood to have received \$40,000,000 in return for his agreement to withdraw his opposition and permit the will to be probated.

Walker was born at Cedar Springs, Ont., where his father ran a hotel, and was educated at the village of Charing Cross. There, after working as a bookkeeper for a time, he received a teacher's certificate. He spent three years as a teacher at Merlin village, Ont., at a salary, it is said, of about \$12 a week.

Twenty-one years ago he decided to change his work, and went to New York, where he obtained a small clerkship. It so happened, however, that this employment brought him into the association with Searles, who afterwards came to enter Searles' employ.

District Attorney Deane said that information had reached him which might lead to the identification of the man who had been associated with Searles.

ed upon to bear an unfair share of the burden of the bankrupt roads taken over by the Borden and Meighen governments.

"A GOVERNMENT OF BIG BUSINESS"

Hon. T. A. Crerar Opens His Campaign.

Progressives' Leader Challenges Meighen to Disclose Source of Campaign Funds—Denies Class Legislation Charge.

Brandon, Man., Oct. 6.—(Canadian Press Staff Correspondent)—Before a couple of crowded meetings last night Hon. T. A. Crerar, leader of the National Progressive party opened his campaign. He received an enthusiastic greeting. Warmly he rejected any suggestion that the National Progressives stood for class legislation. He admitted that in its conception, among the farming community, the movement partook of a class movement, but he declared the Progressives were now drawing to themselves members of all classes.

"I detect class legislation. I detect class movements," Mr. Crerar exclaimed, and his words were roundly applauded. "We have had too much of it in the last forty years. One of the healthiest aspirations of the Progressive movement is to get away from class legislation. Out of the farmers' movement had grown a new ideal in public life."

Mr. Crerar saw behind the new Meighen administration the shadow of big business. "It is a government controlled by big business," he declared. "It is a government controlled by big business. I challenge the government to expose its source from which its campaign funds are coming in the present election."

As to the government's offer of a voluntary wheat pool, Mr. Crerar stigmatized it as a "political" device. He held that railway financial difficulties could be met only by the adoption of such a policy as would encourage immigration and increase population. If uncertainty about the tariff was responsible for unemployment, "as urged by the prime minister," then why had the government not dissolved parliament a year ago? He attacked Mr. Meighen's contention that protection had brought prosperity to Canada.

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