

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 28, 1914.

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THE ISSUE IN CANADA

The vote in parliament last night shows that the people of Canada have no hope of relief from tariff burdens while the Conservative party remains in power. By a straight party vote the Conservatives rejected the amendment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in which regret was expressed that the government had failed to give assurance of action to overcome the present economic depression, and to check the rapid increase in the cost of living. The Conservatives being in power will stand by their friends the protected interests, to whom of course the tariff is sacred. There will be no downward revision of the tariff, and nothing will result from the report of the departmental commission on the cost of living. The people must look to the Liberal party and its leaders for such a policy as will bring back again the prosperous conditions which prevailed throughout Canada during the long Liberal regime.

In the debate last night, Mr. Verville, speaking for the labor interests of the country, declared that the general course of the Borden government tended to give the impression that the ministry is hostile to labor. Mr. Verville regarded the appointment of the commission on the high cost of living as he would regard the action of a man whose house was on fire and who would send by mail for the fire brigade. Mr. Verville said that the tariff increases the cost of the workingman's food and clothing. As to unemployment, he declared that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had not exaggerated when he said that 100,000 men were out of employment in Canada today, and he read a telegram to show that 10,000 people have left British Columbia for the United States in the last four months because of a lack of work, while in Greater Vancouver 10,000 people are workless today; and similar conditions prevail in other Canadian cities, especially through the west.

In the face of all this the Borden government is content to remain in office without offering any remedy for the conditions which have arisen since it assumed the reins of power. The Liberals, on the other hand, are pressing vigorously for relief for the masses of the people from the tariff burdens under which they labor. At a Liberal caucus at the capital yesterday the policy of free food and free wheat was unanimously endorsed, and it will be placed before parliament in the form of an amendment before the debate on the address is concluded. The protected interests of the country are of course lined up to oppose any such movement, and as the government, despite the Tory-Nationalist alliance, would not be in power today but for the support of the high protectionists, Mr. Jordan and his colleagues will take no steps to disturb the existing tariff conditions.

The line of cleavage between the two parties is clear. The Liberals stand for the interests of the common people, who are oppressed by tariff burdens, an increasing cost of living, and an increase in unemployment. The government stands for high protection, regardless of the interests of those who bear the burden. It will only be necessary for the Liberals to perfect a good working organization, to place the issues squarely before the people in every constituency, and the verdict at the next general elections will prove that Canadians have not been idle onlookers upon the affairs of the mother country and the United States, in the former of which all attempts to bring about the adoption of a protectionist policy have proved utterly futile; while in the latter a downward revision of the tariff has resulted in an immediate reduction in the cost of living.

THE PEOPLE PAY

There is food for thought for the opponents of a downward revision of the tariff in the following from the Bangor Commercial:

"The legislature of Pennsylvania a year ago, in an attempt to increase the public revenue, imposed a tax of two and one-half cents a ton on anthracite coal mined in the state. At the time the newspapers very generally remarked that the increased revenue of the state would come from the coal consumers who would pay considerably more than the state would receive. The Philadelphia Ledger now concludes its remarks on the subject by giving some figures drawn after a careful study of a year's operation of the law. The Ledger estimates that the operators have made a payment to the state of \$600,000 under the new law, and at the same time have made its enactment an excuse for extra charges of \$1,800,000 from the middlemen, who have made good for themselves by extra charges of \$3,600,000. The Ledger says that the two and one-half cents tonnage tax was boosted 1,000 per cent. by the time the coal reached the consumer.

"Thus the state of Pennsylvania gained and so did the operator and the middleman while the public suffered."

President Wilson endorses the attitude of Great Britain in the matter of the Panama Canal tolls on coast-wise shipping.

Mr. W. F. MacLean, independent Conservative member for South York, and publisher of the Toronto World, told the government yesterday that the duty on wheat should be abolished.

Mr. Hazen informs the board of trade that he will get for them the information about the Bay of Fundy for which they asked. Mr. Hazen should not have waited to be asked. St. John is much in need of better representation in the government at Ottawa.

Dr. Thorne of Havelock, one of the older physicians of the province, did not long survive his cousin and life long friend and fellow student, Dr. MacDonald of Dorchester. Both were men of high standing in their profession and in the community.

An industrial announcement of great interest to the farmers as well as to the citizens is that of the formation of a strong company to establish a pork packing plant and to conduct a number of farms of its own for the special purpose of raising hogs. The farmers will get a larger local market, and the members of the company are confident that they will be able to enlarge their business from year to year until they are in a position to develop an export trade. This is a substantial industry that would be of much benefit to the province.

The proposed paving bill prepared by the city council merely proposes to adopt here the principle which has been adopted in large cities in Canada and the United States; and, while there may be cases where it would seem to inflict some hardship, it is in the main an eminently fair principle. The man on the front street whose property is greatly increased in value and whose business grows as a result of having a well paved street in front of his premises should not expect a man living on a back street which may be in bad condition to help to pay the whole cost for that from which the former derives the benefit.

The discussion of moral and social conditions in St. John, and the universal consciousness that things are not as they should be in relation to the boys and girls, leads inevitably to the suggestion that there is in St. John great need of social centre work, which would bring the people together to consider without reference to political or religious differences those matters which affect their common interest and the general welfare of the community; and also to make provision for recreation for the young, under healthy conditions and wise supervision. There is in St. John a lack of what President Wilson has well styled a community spirit, which deals with subjects vitally affecting the common interests of all the people. The best place yet discovered in which to develop that spirit is the social centre, and the more the people reflect upon social and moral conditions here, the more firm should grow their conviction that the social centre movement should be encouraged.

CAPITALIZING IMPOSSIBILITIES

(American Machinist)

The distribution of \$10,000,000 among the employees of the Ford Motor Co. is a situation so unusual and exceptional that only in a few cases would a similar distribution be possible.

It is probably true that this might have been done at the height of prosperity in the sewing-machine, typewriter, bicycle, cash-register and other industries which were new developments; it could probably not be done in any of them at the present time.

First of all, the large earnings are the result of standardizing the product, of building only one size of motor and chassis, of having but three variations as to body and none as to paint or equipment, not a special order going through the shop. This makes it possible to produce at such a low price, that, coupled with aggressive selling methods the increased demand makes production cost less and less.

The announcement that the Ford plant is to run twenty-four hours a day in three shifts of eight hours each, is a marked departure in machine work, and one that secures maximum output for minimum investment in the plant. Objections will undoubtedly be raised as to the wear of machines, the repairs necessary to keep them up and the like. But it does not take much consideration to show that any machine has a given amount of capacity for work, both as to speed and quantity. Assuming due care and repairs, and the sooner we get this amount of work out of a machine the better, especially as we can replace it with a more effective machine.

Knowing the Ford policy of taking machines out of service for proper repairs, even to the extent of replacing them with spare machines in some cases there need be no fear of any bad effect of continuous working on this account. An increase of 80 to 50 per cent. in the capacity of a plant, with the same equipment, means a very much lower overhead expense and a reduced cost that will take care of a somewhat reduced efficiency, even if this were a necessary part of continuous operation.

Prediction of disaster would be much safer if the Ford company had not thrived by doing the things many of us declared to be impossible.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

George E. Amyot of Quebec, who celebrates his fifty-eighth birthday today has made a fortune out of corsets, paper boxes and ale, all of which commodities he has been manufacturing in large quantities for several years. He has employed his wealth in various ways. One of the most interesting and praiseworthy things he has done, was to erect a very fine statue of the historical Garneau, which now stands near the St. Louis Gate in Quebec and is one of the numerous objects of interest in the ancient capital. Mr. Amyot ran for parliament once but was beaten by a young man of twenty-three after a memorable contest. He has been a vice-president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

LIGHTER VEIN

Love in Sales Week

The business man kisses his wife at the garden gate just as a bachelor friend joined him in the rush for the station. "It's nice," said the bachelor sentimentally, "to have someone to see you off in the morning like that." "There's nothing like a wife's love," said the business man. "I suppose not." "In sales week," concluded the business man.

Must Fall Quietly

The father of a large family of children was trying hard to read the evening paper. "What's that terrible racket in the hall, Martha?" "One of the children just fell downstairs." "Well," he replied, turning over another page of the paper, "you tell the children if they can't fall downstairs quietly, they'll have to stop it."

The Bump Explained

At the phrenologist's— "That large bump across the back of your head means that you are inclined to be inquisitive, even to the point of recklessness." "Right, Professor. I got that bump by sticking my head into the dumb-waiter to see if the waiter was going up, and it was coming down."

A Matter of Instinct

A gentleman, accompanied by a favorite dog, visited the studio of an artist one day. There was a picture on the easel, and the dog began barking furiously at it.

"Nature may be relied upon after all," said the visitor. "The best evidence of the faithfulness with which you have painted that dog in the background, is the earnestness with which my dog barks at it."

"But that isn't a dog," said the artist, growing red in the face.

"Not a dog? What is it then?" "It's a cow."

The gentleman was nonplussed for a moment, but quickly replied, "Well, the dog's eyes are better than mine; he never did like cows."

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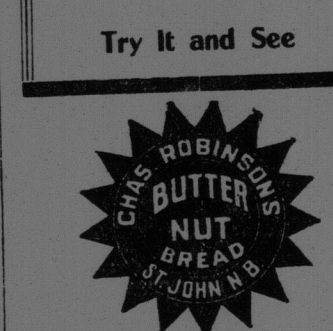
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Sizes carried in stock: 1/4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 tons.

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THE BARMAID

The inquiry which the Women's Industrial Council is making into the working conditions of barmaids is going to yield some remarkable results.

The Daily Sketch special commissioner discussed the matter with a number of barmaids yesterday, and although his inquiries were restricted to the better-class houses, where conditions are above the average, he found some startling cases of monstrous long work for meagre pay.

"It's time there was an inquiry of this sort," said one barmaid in a Fleet-street house. "The drapers' assistants are always crying out about their hours. We work longer, but the public knows no thing about us."

"In the country, where public houses shut at ten or eleven o'clock, things are better. But here I start at half-past eight in the morning, and go on, with two hours' rest in the afternoon, till closing time at half-past twelve. Then at least another half hour, so it is one o'clock when I finish. I get 18s. a week."

"These conditions are, comparatively, pretty good. In my last place, at Richmond, I got no afternoon rest at all nor time off for meals. I had to eat my meals in the bar, in between serving customers, and I averaged 16 or 17 hours work a day."

"There are a good many places worse than that. There are some houses where I would not work for any money." Between 12s. and 14s. a week seems the general London average of barmaids' wages in the best class of houses. Teashop waitresses get only 10s. a week, but considering the qualifications a barmaid must possess—bright manner, attractive appearance, and the intelligence to be able to chat easily with all sorts and conditions of customers—12s. a week is not princely. And it is the top-class wages.

One likes to think of the publican as a jovial, generous person, but the Daily Sketch discovered a very regrettable meanness of which many in London have been guilty. Before the coming of the compulsory weekly half-day's rest it was the custom for the girls to be allowed a week's holiday a year, provided they had held the one situation for six months or more. Since the half-day's rest was imposed that holiday has in many cases been knocked off.

"But it's the Sunday work that is really killing," said one barmaid. "I don't think public houses ought to be open on Sunday. If people want drink, then they ought to have to get it in beforehand, as they do with groceries and everything else."

Question 21 of the inquiry addressed

to barmaids is "Would you advise a young girl to become a barmaid?" Of seven to whom the Daily Sketch now put this question all answered emphatically "No."

"I like the business well enough in a way," said the most optimistic. "You see plenty of life and change, but if I had my choice again I would be anything but a barmaid."

Water the plants with a decoction of tobacco which quickly destroys insects. Independently of the removal of the insects tobacco water is considered to improve the plant. Prepare as follows:—Pour over 1 lb. of roll tobacco three pints of water, nearly boiling. Let it stand over night, and when cold spray the leaves.

Among every 1,000 bachelors there are 38 criminals, while among married men the ratio is only 10 per 1,000.

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Assessors' Notice

The Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of Saint John hereby require all persons liable to be rated for the year 1914 forthwith to furnish to the Assessors true statements of all their property, real estate, personal estate, and income, which is assessable under the "Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909," and hereby give notice that blank forms on which statements may be furnished can be obtained at the office of the Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath and filed in the office of the Assessors, within thirty days from the date of this notice. Dated this Fifth day of January, A.D. 1914.

Arthur W. Sharp, Chairman

Uriah Drake, Timothy T. Lantulum, John Ross, Assessors of Taxes.

Extracts from "The Saint John City Assessment Act, 1909."

"Sec. 32. The Assessors shall ascertain, as nearly as possible, the particulars of the real estate, the personal property, and the income of any person, who has not brought in a statement in accordance with their notice and as required by this law, and shall make an estimate thereof at the true value and amount, to the best of their information and belief; and such estimate shall be conclusive upon all persons who have not filed their statements in due time, unless they can show a reasonable excuse for the omission."

"Sec. 48. No person shall have an abatement unless he has filed with the Assessors the statement under oath within the time required; nor shall the Common Council, in any such case, sustain an appeal from the judgment of the Assessors, unless they shall be satisfied that there was good cause why the statement was not filed in due time as herein provided. 3840-2-6

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