

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1919

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 7, 1919.

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### THE TARIFF PLANK

The tariff plank of the Liberal party, adopted on Wednesday and published today, follows the traditional lines of party policy with respect to customs taxation and extends it to meet the conditions of this time. It is sound in principle, and it is not confined to generalities; it is specific, and behind it is the whole force of the Liberal army from coast to coast.

Union government has made several half-hearted attempts to meet the general and rising complaint about the excessive cost of living, but it has done nothing effective in that respect. The chief reason for its failure was that it ignored—and purposely ignored—the power it had to strike at the cost of living by reducing the tariff taxes on the principal daily necessities of the people. The Liberal tariff plank means business. Conservative influences prevented Union government from touching the sacred tariff except sparingly and under compulsion. The Liberal plank declares that a substantial downward revision must be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the highest importance:

First—diminishing the very high cost of living which presses so severely on the masses of the people;  
Second—reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, the vigorous development of which is essential to the progress and prosperity of our country.

Then come the articles which the Liberals would place on the free list: wheat and wheat products, the principal articles of food, farm implements and machinery, farm tractors, mining, flour and saw-mill machinery and repair parts thereof, rough and dressed lumber, gasoline, illuminating, lubricating and fuel oils, nets, net twines and fishermen's equipment, cements and fertilizers; and, in order that the manufacturer may have fair play too, the raw material necessary in making these articles will also be made duty free. It will be hard to find honest objection to this free list. Tariff taxes upon the articles mentioned are not necessary for revenue purposes, and they constitute an unjust tax upon the great mass of the people of this country.

In addition to the free list, the Liberals propose a revision downward of the tariff, effecting substantial reductions in the price of wearing apparel and footwear, and on other articles of general consumption, other than luxuries, as well as on the raw material entering into the manufacture of these things.

This is a sound and a welcome proposal, and had the Liberal party of 1911 carried into effect more generously and more faithfully the very downward revision to which it now pledges itself, the results would have been good for the country and, incidentally, for the party.

Furthermore, there is in the Liberal tariff plank another declaration that will win instant approval in all the provinces of Canada. It is that the British preference shall be increased to fifty per cent of the general tariff. Reducing the taxation on our imports from Great Britain is a practical promotion of Imperial unity, and, beyond that, it would produce large benefits to our shipping, and tend to restore competition in a too greatly protected home market. The old Conservative group, who proclaim themselves ultra-loyalists and ultra-imperialists, hate this proposal to increase the British preference and will fight it indirectly—all the time waving the Old Flag. Their custom has been to denounce the Liberals as traitors, and still to go on fighting against the Liberal proposal to lower the taxes on the goods Britain sends us.

The Liberal party pledges itself to carry out these tariff proposals by legislation when returned to power. The work of the convention up to this time has been both successful and impressive, and if the deliberations and decisions of today and tomorrow are up to the high standard thus far established no great time will elapse before this country will have a Liberal administration at Ottawa.

**MARITIME PROVINCE RIGHTS.**  
Premier Foster, in his address before the Liberal National Convention on Wednesday, gave welcome indication of the determination of the Maritime Provinces to press for their rights in connection with the financial recognition due them because of federal grants of land to nearly all of the other provinces of Canada. Hon. Mr. Foster, in giving notice that this is going to be a very live question in the Maritime Provinces from this time forward, was placing the case of the Maritimes before a body of men who are likely to dominate the next House of Commons, and as a fundamental principle of Liberalism is fair play and equality of opportunity it may well be thought that a few years hence a Liberal government at Ottawa may redress the balance and place New Brunswick and Nova Scotia upon all fours with Quebec, Ontario and the West by indemnifying us for our share of the lands held in common by the members of this Confederation but handed over to Ontario and Quebec and, in a greater measure, to the Prairie provinces.

As one of the eight Liberal Premiers in attendance at the great convention, and as the leader of a party which reclaimed New Brunswick, and gave it

honest and progressive government in contrast with the old misrule, Premier Foster speaks with force and with due regard for the facts when he says that Liberalism in this province was never more vigorous and alert than it is today, and that in the coming federal elections New Brunswick is likely to register a large majority against the Conservatives.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, who seconded the tariff resolution, made a spirited and aggressive address which evidently made a most favorable impression upon the convention. His words concerning tariff reduction, and those in condemnation of the politicians who raise the race and religion cry at election times, are worthy of general commendation.

### WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

Coiled up among some other profound political observations in this morning's Standard, we discover the following: "So long as Hon. Mr. Carvell remained in the Union cabinet The Telegraph felt in duty bound to endorse him, but its recent absurd praise of one who, when all is said and done, was, in New Brunswick at any rate, merely a discredited politician, scarcely jibes with its adherence to those who have been stabbing Mr. Carvell in the back."

The Standard appears to betray a conspicuous lack of clarity in this particular diatribe concerning the art of political assassination, a matter in which it should be able to set forth its views with uncommon precision. What is the precise meaning of these Standard sentences? Who is it that, "when all is said and done, is merely a discredited politician?"

If the Standard will diagnose its own case, doubtless some effort may be made to minister to its needs. It is a young newspaper, but we had thought it was emerging from the inarticulate stage; it should at least be able to sit up and say where the pain is and what it has been eating during the last few days. With this information, discovery of the proper medicine to apply should not be difficult. Let us hear more about it.

If Viscount Grey proves to be the man for the post of British ambassador to Washington, Britain will be inadequately represented there.

August 7, 1919

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### Salary Otherwise Engaged.

"Do you mean to say, old chap, that you spend less now that you are married than you did when you were single?" "Well, it amounts to that. You see I get much less to spend."—Stray Stories.

"Nope, the editor is seeing no poets." "What, sirrah, you refuse to admit the bard?" "You said it. The bard is barred."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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### WILSON MAKES STATEMENT ON SHANTUNG MATTER

Washington, Aug. 7.—President Wilson last night issued a formal statement saying that the "frank statement" made by Viscount Uchida as to Japan's policy regarding Shantung "ought to serve to remove many of the misunderstandings which have begun to accumulate about this question."

References in the Uchida statement as the agreement between Japan and China in 1915, "might be misleading," the president said, "if not commented upon in the light of what occurred in Paris."

When the question of disposal of Shantung was definitely decided on at Paris, President Wilson said the Japanese delegation, in reply to a question from him, said: "The policy of Japan is to hand back the Shantung peninsula in full sovereignty to China, retaining only the economic privileges granted to Germany and the right to establish a settlement under the usual conditions at Tsing Tao."

"No reference was made to this policy being in any way dependent upon

the execution of the agreement of 1915 to which Count Uchida appears to have referred," the president says in his statement. "Indeed, I felt it my duty to say that nothing that I agreed to must be construed as an acquiescence on the part of the government of the United States in the policy of the notes exchanged between China and Japan in 1915 and 1918; and reference was made in the discussion to the enforcement of the agreements of 1915 and 1918 only in case China failed to co-operate in carrying out the policy outlined in the statement of Baron Makino and Viscount Uchida."

A Manila shoe dealer now in Salt Lake City says: "When my shoe business was opened in Manila twenty-one years ago it took exactly five years to sell a Filipino a pair of shoes. But now shoes are becoming more popular, among the women especially. High-heeled shoes are worn by the native women along with their native costume."

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Crepe-de-Chene Chemise and Envelope Combinations, with many charming little touches made with ribbons, lace, rosettes and so forth . . . . . \$4.00 to \$10.40

Jap Silk Gowns, prettily embroidered and trimmed with Val. lace . . . . . \$8.00 to \$8.80

Satin Gowns in Empire style with V-neck, shirring and hemstitching . . . . . \$11.20

Italian Silk Undervests . . . . . \$2.65 to \$4.50

Italian Silk Bloomers . . . . . \$3.60 to \$6.30

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Wash Satin Bloomers . . . . . \$5.20

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