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THE REVISED TARIFF.

(Saturday's Daily) The revised tariff schedules were presented to the House of Commons Thursday and from the summary contained in the despatches it is apparent that the Manufacturers' Association have signally failed to stampede the government into the tariff elevation they have persistently demanded for several years past.

That there is a revision of the tariff at this time is to be credited very largely to the insistent demands of these gentlemen for such tariff adjustment as would throw the trade of Canada absolutely and inevitably into their hands, regardless of what they might be pleased to tax the people of the country in the form of increased prices for the privilege of buying only Canadian made goods.

The preferential duty which was established by the tariff revision of 1897 granted a reduction to goods made in Great Britain. This the manufacturers were pleased to construe as an invasion of their domain and the circumstances that the invasion came from Great Britain made no conspicuous difference in the attitude of the Canadian manufacturers toward it. It has been to them an object of peculiar aversion and about it has centred their heaviest onslaughts on the tariff policy of the government.

It is noteworthy that the British preference is to remain. The form is changed but the substance is unaltered. Instead of a flat discount of 3-3 per cent. on goods of all classes manufactured in Great Britain and the sister colonies which tender us tariff favors the different classes of goods will be treated individually. Great Britain and the colonies favorably disposed toward our trade will continue therefore to receive the benefit of the privilege of shipping their goods into this country at a lower rate than is accorded to countries outside the Empire and to any portions of the Empire itself who do not manifest a desire to trade with us. In maintaining such condition the Government has given an unequivocal answer to the demands of the Canadian manufacturer that every possible competitor be debarred from the Canadian market and also to the Opposition who have devoted their labors to the same end under the thin guise of a glittering profession of "preserving the Canadian market for the Canadian manufacturer."

Scarcely more satisfactory to the advocates of an exclusive tariff, but quite as satisfactory to the country at large will be the intermediate tariff by which preference may be extended to any country which shows disposition to develop trade with Canada. This is the spirit of reciprocity. By it Canada practically offers to do in tariff matters to us as we are prepared to do to us. It is a recognition of the principle that high tariff is destructive of international commerce and also of the principle that a large international trade is a desirable thing for Canada. It is an offer to meet other nations halfway in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

It paves the way for future reductions of the tariff toward all countries which produce goods they would like to sell in Canada, provided such countries reduce their tariff restrictions against the admission of Canadian goods. And as the country possessing such arrangement will have a distinct advantage over the country which does not possess it the effect of this provision should be to induce a reduction of tariff on the part of those nations which now display a willingness to sell goods in Canada, but an objection to buying goods from us. The intermediate tariff offers the opportunity therefore of a gradual all-round lowering of the tariff restrictions on trade between Canada and other countries of the world by the medium of tariff arrangements and commercial treaties.

But that the tariff revision is not designed in a spirit of hostility or indifference to Canadian industries is evidenced by the fact that the general tariff remains except where and until it is replaced by the intermediate tariff brought into place by arrangements with other countries. While provision is thus made for gradually lightening the burden which protection has placed on the consumers of Canada, there is no violent and sudden abolition of the conditions under which Canadian industries have been originated and developed, such as might tend to create an industrial panic or disrupt the commercial life of the country. Instead there is given to the manufacturer an understanding of the conditions which by tariff arrangement he is likely to have to face in the future and for which he will have time to prepare himself. While therefore the general tariff is operative for the present

it is liable to automatic alteration by the simple fact of the completion of tariff arrangements with other countries and the knowledge that it is thus liable to alteration should have an immediate effect in tempering the unsatisfactory results of protection.

THE FIRST SKIRMISH.

(Friday's Daily) The preliminary skirmish in a session of Parliament takes the form of a debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The "speech from the throne" corresponds to the "message" sent by the President of the United States to Congress. It is supposed to foreshadow the legislation which the Government will propose during the session. In the debate to which it gives rise, however, the members do not confine themselves necessarily to the subjects suggested in the speech. The opportunity is usually taken to wander freely over the political situation and discuss things in general. In consequence and according to the plans of the leaders the debate may or may not reveal the general course to be pursued by the respective parties during the session.

This preliminary bout took place on Friday last, when Mr. Pardee, member for West Edmonton, moved the address in reply to the speech, seconded by Mr. Demers, of St. John-Berville. The mover and seconder referred to the prosperous condition of the country and for the main confined themselves to the subjects mentioned in the speech. They were followed by the leader of the Opposition, who took occasion to wander afield and deal with a variety of matters, nearly all of which he had dealt with in previous sessions and on which he had apparently nothing new to offer. He harked back to last session to say that Mr. Pardee had supported the purchase of supplies for the Arctic, told the Liberals that they had instituted low tariff ideals into the farming population, endeavored to excuse his conspicuous absence from the by-election in Queen's-Shelburne by a belated reference to the issues of that contest, went back to the organization of the western provinces to say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had opposed the selection of Mr. Haultain as Premier of Saskatchewan, regretted that there was no reference to transportation in the speech from the throne, and promised the support of the Opposition in any measure calculated to prevent corruption at elections. There were few subjects in the House as discussed in the speech and little on any of these which had not been said over and over again. If the speech of the Opposition leader is to be taken as an index to the course of his party during the session the Opposition may expect little from the support of the Government and a rehash of discarded issues.

Mr. Borden was followed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who referred first to the matter of corruption in elections. Speaking of London, he said:—"Mr. Gibbons told us that the friends of Mr. Hyman having fought two elections and won fairly and honestly had been deprived of the seat by unfair and fraudulent methods; they came to the conclusion that they would fight the enemy with the devil's fire. Well, no greater mistake could be made if the Grits should undertake to fight the enemy with the devil's fire. I do not know how it is but it appears that the Tories can always use the devil's fire. They seem to have been made for it. It seems to be congenial to them; they can do it almost with impunity, but when a poor Grit undertakes to deal with the devil's fire, he burns his fingers every time. That is actually what happened in London. The poor Grits undertook to deal with the devil's fire and what do we see today. Therefore, it is better for our friends, I say it in all sincerity, that they should not follow these Tory methods, but that they should fight an honest battle."

Sir Wilfrid sat at rest the charge Mr. Borden had attempted to resurrect regarding the Saskatchewan pre-emption. He said:—"I never had a word of communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan as to the party whom he should call to his council. But the latter of Mr. Scott's very plain. Mr. Scott says Laurier had been the opinion that Haultain should be called as premier as soon as the province was organized, but the conduct of Haultain, taking the partizan position he did in regard to the Autonomy bill, in the opinion of Laurier disqualified him from such a course as that. That is my opinion. I was not aware of that letter from Mr. Scott until it was read last session by Mr. Lake. I had been under the impression all along that as Mr. Haultain had been premier, he should be called upon to be first premier of the province of Saskatchewan or of Alberta, but when I saw that Mr. Haultain was taking such a partizan position, such a hostile attitude towards the Autonomy bill and the education clauses of the Autonomy bill, I came to the conclusion it would not be wise that Mr. Haultain should become the premier. Did I give advice to the Lieutenant-Governor? There was no suggestion of that at that time, as Lieutenant-Governor at that time, as I advised my friends who were

going into conventions to select the leaders of their party organization, that they could no longer take Mr. Haultain, that they must have another man and that is why that letter was written by Mr. Scott advising his friends over the province to forego the attitude, which had been taken by them up to that time that Mr. Haultain should be leader of the party. My political friends in the Northwest had been giving their political allegiance to Mr. Haultain because of the organization of the Territories into provinces and I saw no reason why the same thing should not be continued. They discarded their political differences. They agreed to let them go and have simply an administration which would deal with matters provincial, local and municipal, altogether independent of party. I was of the opinion when we first commenced the discussion of the Autonomy bill that the same thing might go on but when I found the attitude of Mr. Haultain in this respect, much against my own grain I had to change my attitude."

Mr. Foster followed, thus making it clear, however much a section of the Opposition may desire to dispense with his services this desire is shared neither by their leader nor by Mr. Foster himself. That the ex-minister of finance should be put up to reply this important occasion to the Premier is sufficient evidence that his official status in his party has not been altered by the revocation of the Insurance Commission or the political address of those of his friends who prefer his absence. That Mr. Foster was to be officially retained as second in command was made reasonably certain by the promptness with which Mr. Borden came to his defence, where the revelation was being made, it is put beyond a doubt by the place of honor assigned him in the first debate of the session. And that his talents are to be utilized along the line of their recognized merit was also made clear by the fact that Mr. Foster with singular appropriateness regaled the House with an oration on the misuse of money.

From this preliminary debate, two things stand out clearly—first, that the opposition leader finds a woeful scarcity of new issues of sufficient importance to deserve a place in his general review of the situation, and second, that regardless alike of friend and foe, Mr. Foster remains as lieutenant to Mr. Borden.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE MAYORALTY (Thursday's Daily) Under our municipal system the mayor of Edmonton is confronted with a remarkable opportunity for public service, and with a no less unusual measure of responsibility for the conduct of public affairs. It would be hard to devise a system offering an official greater scope for service to his city or one making greater demands of him for ability, integrity and industry.

The mayoralty is the keystone of our municipal system. With the right kind of a mayor the administration of civic affairs may indeed be unprogressive, but it can scarcely be incapable and cannot be corrupt; with the right kind of mayor the administration can scarcely be unprogressive, it is pretty certain to be incapable, and may easily become corrupt.

The first requisite is that the mayor be a good administrator. However desirable it may be that new enterprises should be undertaken it is of primary necessity that the current business be capably discharged, the utilities now in existence wisely managed and the undertakings in hand properly carried out. Paradoxical as it may seem the mayor is first the chief commodity of more consequence than a good commissioner than a good administrator. If he be a capable commissioner he is very likely to be also a good working member of the council, but no amount of enterprise and public concern in the council chamber will retrieve inefficiency or negligence in the commissioner's room.

This will be particularly true during the coming year, for the enormous public works program which will be the outstanding feature of the year's work is now practically beyond the sphere of the council. Arrangements will probably be made during the next month for carrying on the trunk sewer enterprise; the new telephone system and fire alarm system have been decided on by the council; the contracts have been let for paving material and the council is winding up the preliminary business in connection with the car line. It is probable therefore that by the close of the year all these enterprises will have been fully dealt with by the council and handed over to the commissioners for completion. The new council will have practically no concern with them, but upon the new chairman of the commission will fall the duty of organizing, directing and superintending the progress of the various undertakings included in the largest construction program the city will be called on to carry for many years.

The business of the mayor does not end here. With him is supposed to originate many at least of the suggestions adopted by the council as texts for legislative enactments. He has thus the opportunity of exerting a vital and constant force in determining the policy of the city toward

new questions which the changing conditions are constantly bringing up. That these questions will be as many, as varied and as important during the next year as during the present, there can be little doubt and here again the mayor will find an unusual opportunity for public service.

The greatness of the opportunity is the measure of the qualifications demanded of the occupant of the office. If he is to meet the opportunity he must be a man of clear and quick perception, sound judgment, industry and courage of that rare kind which will face a friend as readily as an enemy in defence of the public welfare.

BRISTOL AND CANADIAN TRADE.

(Bristol Evening News.) Mr. F. B. Girdlestone, general manager of the Bristol docks, who is at present in Canada, has been interviewed by the Edmonton Bulletin. The following is taken from the Canadian paper: "I want you to think of Bristol as a great and growing centre for Canadian trade," says Mr. Girdlestone, and with that idea in view he is travelling through Canada, interviewing traffic managers and exporters of all kinds and delivering brief lectures to boards of trade, chambers of commerce, city councils, and all sorts of representative bodies. As a part of his programme he addressed a meeting of the board of trade at the city hall this morning. The reason why his pilgrimage is particularly timely at present is because the city of Bristol is the Royal Edward docks, at a cost of \$15,000,000, and that these docks are designed and built with a view to capturing Canadian trade.

Bristol is, in its way, a wonderful city. It has only 400,000 inhabitants, not considered a large city in Great Britain; yet it has spent \$30,000,000 on docks, and the Bristol docks being directly to the city and arranged directly by the city. Mr. Girdlestone being the general manager, carrying 70,000 bunched of handbags, the best facilities in Great Britain for handling freight, that Canadian freight is already the chief trade of Bristol, and that they want and intend to get practically all our trade. As an instance of what can be done in the way of quick handling, he cited the fact that a Jamaica liner, carrying 70,000 bunches of handbags, were unloaded in nine hours one day last summer, and an hour later the fruit was on its way to the consumer.

Mr. Girdlestone claims some credit from Canada as having been the chairman of the committee which retired the old Grand Trunk management under Sir Henry Tyler and placed Charles Rivers Wilson and his assistants in control, which change led to the rejuvenation of the Grand Trunk and eventually to the building of the G. T. P.

Mr. Girdlestone pointed out that he considered one very grave defect in the present management of the Grand Trunk was the fact that the value of the land. The truth of the matter is that much poor land and much of the land is in places where the value of the land is high. The value of the land is high in the middle of the prairie it has been repeatedly burned and the soil is very rich. The value of the land is high in the middle of the prairie, though, it is to be found some of the finest land in the country, especially in the vicinity of Kleskan lake to the east, which is spoken of with the greatest enthusiasm by all who have seen it. There are half dozen or more water settlements at Grande Prairie, each of which has a small bunch of cattle. 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