

in a market so restricted to carry on many lines of manufactures except at a ruinous cost to the consumer.

Protection can only be safely carried to its logical conclusion when there is within the territory affected by the tariff a fairly large circle of commodities which can be spontaneously and naturally produced. Comparisons are often drawn with the United States, but it must be remembered that the United States is in quite a different position from Canada. The United States enjoys a variety of soil and climate such as is not our heritage. Practically every known commodity is grown within her frontiers and in reality she constitutes the greatest free trade area in the world. There is, moreover, no attempt in the United States to protect industries which have not some semblance of a natural basis. But in Canada tariff protection is accorded to a multitude of products which are purely artificial and never could have been indigenous. It is quite a different thing to accord a certain amount of protection to an indigenous industry during its initial struggles in a new country than to impose deliberately upon a whole community the burden of stimulating an industry which has no logical ground for its creation. And yet there are scores of such industries in Eastern Canada, ranging from the cotton factories of Valleyfield downwards. There is no cotton grown in Canada and the raw material has to be brought at great expense from a long distance; the atmospheric conditions are unsuited for successful fabrication and the process of manufacturing can only be conducted at great expense. Lancashire, by reason of her climatic conditions and the inborn industrial instincts of her people, has acquired a predominance the world over in the manufacture of cotton goods. She is efficient and successful and is able to break down the competition of most rivals even if they are protected by tariffs. Yet the Canadian people have for the last thirty years been compelled to subsidize an attempt in Canada to defeat this old-established and highly organized industry in Great Britain.

The woollen manufacturers can also be included in the same category, as the climatic conditions are almost equally unsuitable. It has been calculated by an expert that it would pay the people of Canada to shut up all their woollen and cotton factories, provide the managers and directors with sufficient funds to maintain them in comfortable hotels and clubs, pension off the employees and buy their woollens and cotton in the open market of the world. Yet these are only two of the instances of the grievous burdens which the community in general has been asked to shoulder for the benefit of a few interested parties.

The natural industries of the country have been hopelessly overloaded and retarded by the weight of carrying these artificial and spurious enterprises which have been foisted upon them. The result has been a marked retardation of the growth of these natural industries. Our real estate agents boast of the wonderful progress of Canada; it is as nothing to the progress of the Argentine and other countries which are in a similar economic stage. When the Protective Tariff was first introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald it gave some impetus to the establishment of manufactures and produced an artificial prosperity, but by the time fifteen years had elapsed the effect of this burden was beginning to be felt and there was an acute stagnation. The country was ready to lend an ear to the Liberal opposition's attack upon the Protective Tariff and the election of 1896 was won largely upon a Free Trade campaign. Then came the Laurier regime and its all too familiar history of double dealing and back-sliding in fiscal matters, but accompanying these great misdeeds was a vigorous policy of advertisement and propaganda which paved the way for a phe-

nomenal development in the West. The Western Provinces had enjoyed a slight boom in the eighties and then suffered a more serious set-back than they deserved. At the beginning of the present century there began to take place an enormous increment in land values which obscured the realities of fiscal conditions. The whole community was enabled for a time to share in the general prosperity, and so great was it that the burden and evils of protection were lost sight of. But now these halcyon days are past and real estate is a drug in the market, it is beginning to dawn in people's minds that all is not well in the fiscal conditions of this country. Canadian credit has fallen very low abroad; the revenue and trade returns are decreasing by leaps and bounds; emigration has fallen off by half, and all the criteria by which our prosperity is tested show black results. And the reason is not far to seek.

We have attempted an impossible task; the problem of developing an agricultural country under gigantic burdens. List, the father of German Protection always maintained that there were three economic stages for a country. First—complete free trade during the process of agricultural settlement to enable the farmers to establish good buildings, accumulate what Adam Smith calls stock, and make a commencement of savings. Then he declared there should be a policy of protection to build up manufactures and afford an opportunity to the farming community for the investment of their savings. In the third stage, when the industries have been established there should be a gradual return to complete free trade. Now, in the West we are still in the process of agricultural settlement and yet we have had imposed upon us a fiscal system devised and maintained by the East which is long past the initial agricultural stages. It should be noted that all the other British colonies, while they were at the early stages of agricultural settlement enjoyed in the first half of last century the right of free importation of manufactures from Great Britain. In those days the Colonies were not allowed to make their own tariffs and as a result close agricultural settlement was satisfactorily promoted. But here in the West we are attempting the impracticable task of settling a huge agricultural region with the burden of a huge tariff and the additional weight of heavy railway and interest rates to overwhelm us.

THE CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Mayor Deacon, of Winnipeg, says the real cure for unemployment is for the people to go "back to the land." His Worship is on the right track, and we hope he will proceed to find out why people are leaving the land and crowding to the cities. He will not need to investigate very far to discover that land speculation, by which millions of acres of the best agricultural land in Canada is being held out of use, is preventing the people from going "back to the land" and that the same evil, by setting an extravagant price on city lots makes it impossible for many people to build homes, thus making rents high and keeping builders idle. The real estate speculator reaps where he does not sow, is a parasite upon the producer and a millstone about the neck of the workers. He is found wherever a country is making progress, and wherever population is increasing. He can only be got rid of by making his speculations unprofitable, and the best means yet devised to accomplish that object is to tax the increase in the value of land, which is created by the community at large, into the public treasury. Is Mayor Deacon prepared to face this question and to help bring prosperity to Western Canada by waging war against the land speculator?

PROMISE AND FULFILMENT

There is no question that the official Liberal party of Canada and its representatives in Parliament are becoming more progressive and are approaching nearer to real Liberalism every month they remain in opposition. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier lives long enough to be again returned to power, we do not doubt that he will succeed by appealing to the people as a believer in Free Trade and an enemy to Protection, just as he did in 1896. Before they decide to give their support and their votes to the candidates of the Liberal party, however, Free Traders should satisfy themselves that Sir Wilfrid both intends and has the power to carry out his promises. The people must not allow themselves to be fooled and defrauded as they were when the Liberals attained power in 1896. Tho they had been enthusiastic Free Traders while in opposition, the Liberal leaders on that occasion became Protectionists as soon as they had secured the reins of power, and put into force a tariff which the avowedly Protectionist Government of the present day has adopted with very slight amendments. The question is, will the Liberals do the same thing again? We wish that we could give a decided "No" to this question, but we are at present far from being convinced. Apart altogether from the experience of eighteen years ago, it must be remembered that the Liberal party, in spite of its progress during the past three years, still numbers a good many avowed Protectionists among its leading men. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, who was Minister of Labor and afterwards Postmaster General in the Laurier Government, is reported to have said, when speaking at Hemmingford, Que., a few days ago:

"We are wedded to protection in this country, and I am also a moderate protectionist. I repeat that protection must exist in Canada as long as we have to raise a revenue by means of indirect taxation."

Another recent pronouncement in favor of Protection by a Liberal member was the speech on the budget delivered by W. F. Carroll, the member for South Cape Breton, who strongly condemned the Government for not giving more protection to the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., whose headquarters are in his constituency. It is well known that a great many of the Liberal members representing Eastern constituencies are Protectionists. Many of them, we do not doubt, depend partly on funds supplied by the Big Interests for their election expenses. Sir Wilfrid Laurier may talk about "considerate removal of taxation," but while there are so many avowed Protectionists prominent in the councils of the party the danger will always remain that the Liberals will desert their Free Trade professions as soon as they get into power again. What is needed to ensure the fulfilment of election pledges and fair treatment to the West is for the West to send men to Ottawa who will place principles before party and the welfare of their constituents before the blandishments of lobbyists. A group of Western members at Ottawa, absolutely free from any obligations to either political party and bound only to fight for the farmers' platform, would secure more for their constituents than all the regular party men that have ever sat in the House.

If you believe in The Guide and the cause it is fighting for, see that your neighbor and every other farmer in your district becomes a subscriber.

If there were not so many people getting rich without working, those who do work would be a great deal better off.

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