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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1910.

THE FARMERS AND THE TARIFF.

The delegation of farmers who waited on Sir Wilfrid Laurier last week represented the farmers' organizations in the prairie provinces, Ontario and Quebec. The resolutions they presented may be taken therefore as expressing the views and aims of the farmers of the Dominion generally, with the possible exception of the maritime provinces and British Columbia. Of these resolutions the one likely to excite most general interest, and the one on which the delegates themselves laid most emphasis, was that relating to the tariff. It is interesting to note what this resolution called for:

"(1) Reciprocal free trade between the United States and Canada in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilizers, fuel, illuminating and lubricating oils, cement, fish and lumber.

"(2) Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, machinery, vehicles and parts thereof.

"(3) An immediate lowering of the duties on all British imports to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, whatever these may be. That any trade advantages given to the United States in reciprocal trade relations be extended to Great Britain.

"(4) For such reduction of the remining preferential tariff as will insure the establishment of complete free trade between the Dominion and mother country within ten years.

"(5) That the farmers of this country are willing to face direct taxation, in such form as may be advisable, to make up the revenue loss under the new tariff relations."

It will be noted that the farmers asked for "reciprocal" free trade in the classes of articles enumerated. They did not ask that the Canadian duty on goods of these kinds coming from the United States be abolished, regardless of what the United States might do or whether they did anything. They proposed free trade which would work both ways, and made no suggestion that Canada's markets should be thrown open to the farmers and manufacturers of the Republic unless the markets of the Republic were also thrown open to the farmers and manufacturers of Canada. Their plan was not that the American producer, of whatever class, should be given the opportunity to ship his goods into Canada free of duty whenever market conditions here promised him better prices than he could get at home without any reciprocal concession granted by the United States toward Canadian producers. They would extend this privilege to the United States producer, provided the United States extended the same privilege to the Canadian producer. It was "reciprocal" free trade they called for; and the necessary conclusion is that unless it be free trade into the United States as well as free trade into Canada they do not want it.

The other tariff demand was that any concession given to the United States should be given to Great Britain, that in any event the preference to British goods should be made one half the general tariff, and that in ten years there should be complete free trade between Canada and the Old Land. The last clause clearly means that the Canadian duty should be removed provided Britain does not in the meantime put a duty on Canadian goods. It is complete free trade the farmers want, not free trade for British goods coming into Canada and a duty on Canadian goods going into Great Britain. They propose that we should do to Great Britain as Great Britain is doing to us, and the conclusion is that unless Britain is willing to continue to give our goods free entry, Canada should not be called upon to give free entry to goods from Great Britain. Here again their demand is that free trade work both ways.

It is to be said for the farmers that their proposals are singularly unselfish. It is not simply the free admission of manufactured goods into Canada that they ask for. They do not ask that the manufacturers of the United States and of Great Britain be given free run of the Canadian markets with no compensating concession to the manufacturers of Canada in the markets of these countries. On the contrary their demand for the free admission of American and British goods into Canada is made contingent on these countries giving the right of free entry to goods from the Dominion. It certainly cannot be urged against the farmers that they are indifferent or hostile to Canadian industrial interests; for they make the free admission of the products of our factories into other countries the condition on which they would have free admission given to the products of foreign factories into this country.

Nor did the farmers ask for free trade in what they have to buy and for protection on what they have to sell. They did not ask that United States farm products be excluded. They did not even keep silence on the matter. On the contrary, they embodied in their resolution the request that on all products of the farm there should be free exchange. They are content to take their chances in open competition with the farmers across the line, in the markets of both countries. If free trade would work injury to Canadian producers, the farmers say they are prepared to take their share of the injury. They are willing to stand by the consequences of their proposals, and say so.

More than that, the farmers expressed formally their perfect readiness to pay their share of any direct taxation found necessary to recoup the National treasury for the loss of revenue arising from the adoption of their proposals.

The Premier did not promise to grant all that the delegates demanded. That no sane body of men could expect. The delegates did not themselves know until the previous day exactly what they would ask for. To expect the head of the Government to promise full compliance with the requests on first hearing them would be unreasonable. And Sir Wilfrid could not have done so had he wanted to. One thing asked for was the abolition of the United States tariff against certain kinds of Canadian goods. That can only be done by the United States Government, and the most the Canadian Government can do is to negotiate with Washington with the object of getting it done. Negotiations tending in that direction have already been begun and the representations of the farmers must have influence upon them. These give the Government to understand what the farmers desire and what they are prepared to do to attain their end. They assure the Government that the farmers of the country are overwhelmingly with them in the effort they have undertaken to arrange a modification of the duties which tend to prevent the freedom and growth of trade between the two peoples.

The resolution must also strengthen the Government in the intention to preserve and extend the preference granted to British goods in the Canadian market. It is the official declaration that the farmers of the country approve of the preference that has been given, and that they want a larger measure of it, an extension rapid enough to entirely remove the duty against British goods in ten years. The preference has now become a fixed and permanent feature of the Canadian tariff. The only point for argument is how much preference shall be extended and when. That surely is a satisfactory position of things to all who desire to promote trade between the Dominions of the Empire.

DEMONSTRATION BETTER THAN PRECEPT.

The Provincial Government is taking hold of the movement that has developed for the establishment of an agricultural college in the right way. They propose meeting the demand not with a college, but with something better—with a number of experimental or demonstration farms, situated with reference to the climatic and other variations to be found in the Province, and so that one of other will be within reach of the farmers of every district. It is proposed to start five of these farms during the coming year. It is also proposed to utilize the land wisely secured in connection with the asylum at Ponoka and other public buildings. And should the departure prove successful it is to be supposed other farms will be established as new districts are opened up and as the variation of conditions becomes more precisely known.

This plan can hardly fail to meet the approval of the farmers of the Province, even better than the creation of a college devoted to the teaching of agriculture. We are not so much concerned in this province with the theory of farming as with its practice, and while no discredit is to be thrown upon the valuable work done elsewhere by agricultural colleges, or the great field of usefulness open to such institutions here, the point of first importance is to make known as widely as possible the more common knowledge of farming absolutely necessary to enable a man with limited means and limited experience to go upon a farm and make a living for himself and family. In the course of time the necessity for an agricultural college will develope, but what is presently required is not so much an institution for teaching the science or agriculture as how farming can best be carried on.

At present the number of young men who could and would attend a college is small in comparison to the number of farmers who may be helped by the practical demonstration of what can be done and how best it can be done, by the operation of a number of "model" farms properly located. Perhaps the chief value a college could be at this stage would be in qualifying men to teach agriculture from the lecture platform. But while the value of lectures, by men who know whereof they speak, is not to be denied, showing is a more convincing and certain way of teaching than telling, and it is well that the attempt is to be made to show the farmer what can be done, rather than to teach men who could only go and tell him what he ought to do.

An important feature of this plan is that the farms are to be run with an eye to the circumstances under which the farmer in this country commonly finds himself. They are to be only moderately equipped, and the object is to make them self-sustaining. They are to be adapted to their purpose. The man in charge will be in circumstances similar to those of the average man who goes upon land. To pick the best land in the Province, to equip the farms with machinery and stock regardless of cost, might result in very excellent experimental farms. But the scheme would fail in that it would not take the circumstance of the average farmer into account. Most men who begin farming in this country have not the capital with which to buy the best and most improved farms they can find, and to provide these with all the stock and implements needed to run them in the best manner. They must buy within their means, both of land and equipment, and the problem is how a man under these limitations mad best conduct his operations to secure a profitable return. It is proposed to operate the demonstration farms with these limitations in view, and to show how, under such handicap, farming can be made most profitable.

BALFOUR DROPS "TARIFF REFORM."

There are signs of a split among the Unionists over the question of the tariff. How imminent the disturbance is may be gathered from the fact that the opposing leaders are saying from the platform what can only be construed as condemnations of each other, even while both of them are making speeches for the avowed purpose of downing the Liberals. To Mr. Balfour's declaration that the proposal to put a tariff on food stuffs and the other articles should be submitted to a referendum Mr. Austen Chamberlain replies that the referendum was not on the original program, while his father signficantly stops issuing his clarion calls to the electors. If the division thus indicated were other than radical it is to be supposed that the varying leaders would keep their differences in the back ground until the fight against the common enemy is over. That they do not do so is to be taken as showing the belief of each of them that his party can never be successful except by adopting his views. Mr. Balfour sems to have reached the conclusion that tariff reform is not a winning cause. Though he took it up cautiously if not reluctantly, he has in recent years preached it faithfully, and might reasonably expect to see some fruit for his labors if fruit was to be got from such sowing. But in the opening of the present campaign he declared that if returned to power the course of the Unionists would be to submit the question to the people and let them say directly whether they wanted a tariff or not. This, of course, was nothing more nor less than side-tracking the tariff propaganda so far as the party was concerned. It was designed to relieve the party from the responsibility of having the tariff proposal on their program—about as strong proof as could be given that the leader had lost what faith he had in the power of "tariff reform" to capture votes, and that he thought he and his followers would do better without than with it.

Mr. Balfour appears to have made up his mind that the British workman is not to be charmed with the sirens of high protection, that he dislikes the music they are making very decidedly, and that he votes for the other party in consequence. It is a long and a significant step from championing a public course as a matter of party policy to saying that if returned to power the party will make a direct application to the people for their views on the matter. The change in attitude amounts to a repudiation, absolute and complete of the tariff propaganda as a part of the Unionist party's program. It puts the proposal, so far as that party is concerned, out of politics and frees the party from attachment to it and responsibility for it. The leader would hardly have done this if he had thought the tariff policy was making him any friends, or was likely to do so. He would not have done so if he thought it was a harmless thing which might as well be kept on the list as stricken off. It must be his settled conviction that there is an unshakable force of public opinion against the proposal which counts against whoever champions it at the polls. "Tariff Reform" so far as Mr. Balfour is concerned is a dead issue. He wants no more to do with it, and thinks the party should have no more connection with it. That and that alone can be the meaning of his referendum speech. The conclusion is the more significant that, like all Mr. Balfour's conclusions, it is deliberate. The Unionist leader is not in the habit of making up his mind in a moment. On so vital a question as this it may be taken that he has studied the effect of the tariff proposal carefully, and has reached the matured conviction that the party cannot win on it, or with it on their program. His repudiation of it was, of course, bound to bring the Chamberlains into the field ready for battle. Mr. Austen Chamberlain has inherited the political opinions, as well as the prestige and some of the gifts of his father, is in fact one of the foremost champions of the tariff cause. That he would fall into line quietly with the decision to drop the tariff as one of the fighting issues of the party was not to be supposed. This, too, Mr. Balfour no doubt thought over, and concluded that he would be better off without tariff reform plus the Chamberlains, than with the Chamberlains and their unpopular proposal. The incident is significant of much, both as regards the future of the Unionist party and as regards the fate of the tariff propaganda. It would not be strange if the present difference developes into a trial of strength between Chamberlain the younger and his nominal leader; and should the latter win, ends in the abandonment of the "tariff reform" scheme altogether.

A GOOD MEASURE.

The new act making attendance at school compulsory throughout the whole year will work good in two directions. It will go far toward abolishing child labor in the Province, and will secure for all the children in the Province a better chance of school training. In this district there is comparatively little of what is known as child labor, but in the coal mining districts of the south those familiar with conditions declare that many children are employed at work which not only prevents them attending school but which is in itself injurious to the development of mind and body, and perhaps morals as well. That should not be necessary in a country so rich as this, and whatever tends to prevent it will meet the cordial approval of the public. Equally deserving of approval is the requirement that all children shall attend school throughout the school year. A common school education is not a luxury, but a necessity, to the man or woman of the present generation. It will be more rather than less a necessity when the present boys and girls are men and women. The tendency of things everywhere is to make it harder rather than easier for the unschooled man or woman to get along in the world. This individualistic consideration alone fully justifies the state in saying that every child must have a chance to get the education without which it must be hopelessly handicapped in life. The broader view of social well-being is further warrant. The public have a right to insist that those who will have the direction of affairs in the years to come shall have a general knowledge of how the existing state of society has come about, and of what are the obligations and responsibilities it imposes upon the citizen, and also the means of informing themselves concerning the problems which the future will have to solve. The boy who today is going to school has a right to the assurance that twenty years hence his vote will not be negatived by that of another boy who has been allowed to grow up in ignorance.

THE GREAT WATER WAYS ACT.

Toronto Globe—The passage of the act providing that the bond issue of $7,400,000 made on the guarantee of the Province of Alberta for the construction of the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway shall not be turned over to the company is the logical end of the recent investigation into the relations between the company and the former Government of Alberta. Premier Sifton has had to encounter very strong opposition from some of his own party friends in carrying the measure through the House, but he has followed the only course open to a self-respecting man. There is no suggestion in any responsible quarter that the former Premier, Mr. Rutherford, was inspired by any motive other than the promotion of the best interests of the Province when he entered into an agreement with Mr. W. R. Clarke of Kansas City for the construction under a Provincial guarantee of bonds of 230 miles of railway to connect Edmonton and the Mackenzie Valley system of waterways at Fort McMurray. Mr. Cushing's charge was that the bargain was an improvident one. The decision of the Royal Commission which considered the case and heard all the evidence that could be obtained amply bears out this view. The Province of Alberta should not have been committed to the contract and the fact that no member of the Government was shown to have profited or stood to profit by the transaction did not warrant Mr. Sifton in letting the company proceed while the way was still open to nullify the agreement before actual work of construction was begun. By refusing to appear before the Royal Commission Mr. Clarke undoubtedly alienated the sympathies of the people of Alberta, and the act of the Legislature by which the Province devotes to general Provincial purposes the money hitherto held in trust to the credit of a special account for the building of the railway closes the history of the Great Waterways enterprise.

There is nothing to hinder Mr. Clarke from proceeding if he can secure private capital. The need for the railway is as great as ever it was, and the charter is still available. The only change made is that the money raised on the guarantee of the Province of Alberta to repay it should default be made by the company will no longer be available for the construction of the road.

JOCKEYING.

The C. P. R. have submitted to the City Commissioners plans for the high level bridge differing in some particulars from the plans on which the agreement with the city was based. The company desire, it seems, to make their grade a foot or so higher than originally intended, from the bridge to the yards. This would cheapen the cost of entering the city to the company, but would increase the grades to the overhead bridges on Victoria and Mackay avenue, and would perhaps make a subway on Jasper impracticable. It is also possible that it would increase the amount of property damages for which the city is liable. Apparently the company's strategists count on one of two things: either that they can build at any grade they please regardless of the agreement; or that they can secure a revision of the agreement which will allow them to do so.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1910. DOING IT FIRST.

Enemies of the Provincial Government were much concerned lest Mr. Clarke would sue the Province of the Legislature passed the bill asserting the Province's ownership of the A. and G. W. bond money. It does not seem to have occurred to them that the Province might do some suing on its own account—and do it first. The suits entered against the banks have a bearing on Mr. Clarke's prospects as well. The question to be decided by the courts seems to be that of who owns the money. If they decide it is to be handed over to the Province, how much chance of a successful lay suit will Mr. Clarke and his friends have left?

GUARDING AGAINST LIABILITY.

Banks are conservative institutions They are chary about assuming a responsibility that might lead to legal entanglements. The banks in which the proceeds of the A. and G. W. bonds are deposited are not exceptions to the rule. Their refusal to pay the money over to the Provincial account does not necessarily bespeak an unwillingness to do so; but simply a resolution to have just the assurance of the courts that their doing so will not leave them open to an action for damages by the company. In the question of who owns the money the banks cannot be supposed to have preference. They can not be held to be either at enmity to the Province or in league with the company; nor can their refusal be construed as an attempt to keep the Province from getting the money, or to help the company get it. In consequence of their refusal, suits have been started against them, and the decision of these will determine whether or not the company could come on the banks if the banks paid over the money to the Province. That no doubt is what the banks want to find out.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Smart Set—"Here," said the editor, "you used too many words. You say, 'He was poor but honest.' You have only to say that he was honest.

"Again you say, 'He was without money and without friends.' Simply say that he was without money."

Washington Star—"That was a mighty inconsiderate brass band that serenaded me on election night," remarked the defeated member of Congress.

"What was the trouble?"

"It didn't play anything but 'Home Sweet Home.'"

Puck—Young Centaur: I'd like to have your daughter for my running-mate, old hoss.

Old Centaur: H'm! What are your prospects?

Young Centaur—Why, yesterday morning, before the railbirds got busy, I reeled off a mile in 1.26 flat—and I didn't extend myself either!

Exchange—Stranger: What do you value your white cow at?

Farmer Furrow: She ain't worth over $10. Taxing cows this year?

Stranger: I am not the assessor, I am an official of the Quick Time Railroad. Your cow was killed this morning. Here's the $10. Good day.

Boston Transcript—Miss Flirty: I never allow a man to kiss me unless we are engaged.

Mis Bright: Dear me! Don't you find so many engagements trouble-some?

Tit-Bits—In the dining-room of a hotel at Nice, on a huge placard posted over the mantelpiece, you can read the following:

"Our English visitors are kindly requested to address the waiters and servants in English, as their French is not generally understood."

Chicago Record Herald—"Pa, what are halcyon days?"

"The ones that come immediately after one has finished one's Christmas shopping."

Pittsburg Post—Of boyhood days I write no rhyme,
For I avow
I'm having quite a good time
Just now.

Judge—A mother of four daughters cornered an eligible young man in the drawing room. "And which of my girls do you most admire, might I ask?"

"The married one," was the reply.

Detroit Free Press—"I see that Dr. Cook admits that he didn't find the north pole."

"Well, that makes it unanimous, doesn't it?"

Detroit Free Press—Next!
Your hair is getting a little thin on top. Shall I give you a little tonic?
Your hair is a trifle dusty. Shampoo?
You need a singe.
Massage?
Wet or dry?

Chicago Tribune—Bibliophile (aghast): I beg your pardon, madam, but that book your little girl is playing with is an old and exceedingly rare first edition.

Caller: Oh, that's all rikht, Mr. Vibbert. It will amuse her just as much as if it were nice and new.

Ideas—"Real beauty is indeed rare," he remarked, glancing disapprovingly at the crowd that poured past along the board walk. "Though I know thousands of women, there are but two I consider beautiful."

"Who is she?" the girl at his side asked, with quick interest, and perhaps a tiny flash of jealousy.

Farmers and Their Friends

LOOK AND READ

From now until the New Year I will sell the best Pianos and Organs in Canada at the following prices and terms:

A Beautiful Piano, direct from factory for $265.00

A Beautiful Six-Octave Piano Case Organ, direct from factory for $95.00

Piano Players at same prices accordingly. Why buy an old Piano at prices advertised by other firms when you can buy a new Piano or Organ, best makes, at same price or less. We have a two manuel Karn Organ for sale, new one right from factory, cheap. blow lever, etc., will sell for $400 or less. Good terms on all instruments. Call or write to

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Will unload another car of these Pianos and Organs early next week.—B. P. Co.

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DR. COOK IS RETURNING.

Brooklyn Explorer is on Way Back to New York.

New York, Dec. 20—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the traveller of Brooklyn, will return to this country on the steamer George Washington which is due to arrive on Thursday evening. Dr. Cook has not been in the city since his disappearance shortly after the submission of his polar records to the University of Copenhagen over a year ago.

French Government Sustained.

Paris, Dec. 20—The Governme[illegible] day successfully maintained its position against the attacks of the Socialists under the leadership of M. Jaures. M. Jaures demanded the reinstatement of all railway employes dismissed in connection with the recent strike. The Government took the position that it was impossible to extend a general reinstatement to the men dismissed for violence, but was ready to consider the merits of individual cases. The chamber of deputies sustained the Government by a vote of 405 to 90.

Murder at Colborne, Ont.

Brighton, Ont., Dec. 20—A woman by the name of Joey Brimicomb, who was deaf and dumb, and the cook for the Hotel Bristol, Colborne, was found dead in a room of the hotel this morning under peculiar conditions. Today's developments seem to point to the fact that woman was choked to death as finger prints have been found on her neck. The woman was apparently in good health. The coroner has issued a warrant for an inquest.

NEWFOUNDLAND IN GRIP OF HURRICANE

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 20—Newfoundland tonight is in the grip of a severe hurricane. The storm has been raging for 48 hours and shows no signs of cessation. No shipping disasters have yet been reported.

Fielding's Absence Causes Delay.

Winnipeg, Dec. 20—The second adjourned meeting of the Canadian International Exposition committee was extended today until Jan. 20, 1911, pending news from Ottawa in regard to Government co-operation. The executive feel that the absence of the finance minister has delayed matters and that his return to Ottawa will mean an annoucement of the Government's intentions early in January. Inquiries of proposed exhibitors in Canada and foreign countries are coming in daily.

Montreal Has 110,000 Voters.

Montreal, Dec. 20—At least 2,000 additional names will be on the new electoral lists for this district as a result of the recent registrations in the city and district. The total number of voters therefore, who will be qualified to vote at the first elections for either the Federal or Provincial House will reach the unprecedented total of 110,000. As a result of the previous revision 9,000 names were added.

Whitney's Unique Gift.

Toronto, Dec. 20—Four volumes of press clippings relating to the visit of the Queen's Own Rifles to England last summer have been sent to Sir Henry M. Pellatt by Sir James P. Whitney. The clippings are nicely inserted, indexed and bound. They are most comprehensive, embracing the newspaper references of the whole world. The four volumes will be highly prized by the officers and men of the regiment.

In Quebec By-Election.

Montreal Dec. 20—Sir Lomer Gouin goes to St. Johns for nomination on Thursday and probably to address the electors. Hon. J. L. Decarie provincial secretary Hon. P S. C. MacKenzie, provincial treasurer, and Hon. C. H. Devlin, Minister of Colonization, left this morning for St. Johns where they stump the coutry in favor of Marcellin Robert the Liberal candidate.

Big Fire in St. Paul.

St. Paul, Dec. 20.—The Hardwood Door company's offices and storehouse, Tagle street, below Haven corners, were totally destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The loss is $55,000. Two firemen were injured, one perhaps fatally, and one policeman.

Regina's Police Force.

Regina, Sask., Dec. 20—Chief of Police Zeats in presenting his estimates for the coming year asked for provision for six additional constables, bringing the city's police force up to fifteen including the chief, sergeant and thirteen constables.