

feeling of the ministry was that it was useless to waste another year; why not tackle the problem at once and have it settled? If this tariff cut is not fair, if it is against the true interests of the automobile industry of Canada, the facts in relation to that industry can be investigated later on and if the results are going to be as our hon. friends say, namely, the ruination of the industry, it will be possible to take action in that connection. I do not however think it will be necessary to do so.

Mr. CAHAN: Has the hon. gentleman ever learned the reasons why the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and their colleagues have changed their minds since last year?

Mr. McINTOSH: I would like the hon. member to inform me on that question. I am always ready to learn.

Mr. CAHAN: I do not know. I have been waiting to find out some reason why they have changed their minds. I am asking if my hon. friend knows.

Mr. McINTOSH: It is not very important in any case. The important thing is that the tariff is cut and the people are going to reap the benefit. I believe the Tariff Advisory Board will be an important department. I do not say it is going to be the saviour commercially of the people of this country, but I believe it is worth while experimenting with it. The success of the tariff board will to a large extent depend upon the way in which its members will carry out their duties. If they go at their work with a will, investigate in a national way every question that comes before them and do their best by the industry and the people of this country, they will do a great deal of good and will justify the establishment of the board from year to year.

I have in my hand an article which I am not going to read, but which I would like to place on Hansard. It is from the pen of Mr. Alexander Smith, Barrister at Law, Ottawa. This opinion is taken from a publication entitled "A period of New Beginnings for Liberalism." It was written in 1921 and the statements which follow are important because they are in line with the pronouncements of the present government and because they contain facts which are important to the customs tariff and other methods of public taxation. The article is in accordance with the appointment of a tariff board and in line with any government taking action toward the adoption of new methods of meeting public questions and meeting them successfully.

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Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Does the hon. gentleman understand that the article is prepared by a man who was the chief organizer of the Liberal party for many years?

Mr. McINTOSH: I understand that fully. I was looking at the question from the standpoint not of any particular organization but of the product the man brought out. I was looking upon it from the standpoint not of what party he belonged to or of what he had done for any party, but of a pronouncement of a citizen of Canada. The article is as follows:

As far as possible taxation should be direct and un concealed so that each taxpayer may know what he is doing and may be able, by his style and scale of living to dictate the measure and ratio of his taxation:

The customs tariff, the largest source of revenue, should, before being submitted to the judgment of parliament, be immediately and searchingly revised line by line, word by word, and rate by rate by fair and open-minded men (not by a partisan minister and officials coached by special cliques and interests) with a full and clear understanding of all essential facts pertaining to each industry, so that in the framing of the new rates the interests of the revenue should be paramount, and that incidentally all round justice be rendered, in a spirit of compromise, which is the true basis of wise legislation where there are conflicting interests.

Immediate efforts should be made to reconcile any divergent views of the east and the west, and thereby improve the path to united national effort.

The day is gone when any sect, clique, interest, class or body of men, east or west, can be permitted to impose their uncompromising will on the rest of the people.

In the framing of measures for securing revenue special attention should be given to the wealth created for individuals by the involuntary co-operative methods of communities, and not by the efforts of the individuals themselves.

The Ottawa Citizen makes the following comment on this opinion:

The publication of this pamphlet and the discussions which took place generally on the matter of a tariff board have helped the government to gauge public opinion and appoint a board such as anticipated.

In conclusion I would like to deal with the question of the British preferential tariff. The British preferential tariff was introduced in 1897; in 1898 it was increased from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 25 per cent and in 1900 it was increased to $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That tariff to-day is wrapped up with the fiscal policy of Canada, the motherland and other parts of the empire. The Liberal party of the day in making a move in the direction of a preferential tariff took an important step forward in the history of Canada or the British Empire. Not only did it link up Canada more successfully with the United Kingdom and other portions of the empire, but it developed in this