

# National Liberal and Conservative BULLETIN

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## The Plain Truth about Medicine Hat

As the Quebec Liberals did not put up a candidate in Medicine Hat they can, of course, extract no satisfaction from the result. They left it to the National Liberal and Conservative Party to fight single-handed what was virtually a battle in favor of sound government and Protection. This may be cheap political tactics, but it is a betrayal of the welfare of Canada, and these men may live to curse the day that they entrusted the fortunes of their organization to the control of Wood, the Missourian, and Alex. T. Crerar, the first, and let us hope, the last exponent of business and politics in Canada.

The issue was fought out on straight, unadulterated Free Trade versus reasonable Protection and Free Trade won. It is useless analyzing the result. Ivens and the wild crowd of labor Bolsheviks pandered to the basest elements of labor. Crerar acted the part of demagogue whose horizon is bounded by wheat, and the Candidate himself was Wood's man—Wood, whose henchman, Harris, speaking at Medicine Hat exclaimed, "We are solidly behind H. W. Wood, President of the U.F.A., and we will not admit any one to membership who is not actually a farmer."

For drawing the attention of the business men of the East (whose whole future depends on the maintenance of Protection) to the menace of the Agrarian party, the Globe hypocritically rebukes Mr. G. G. Scott, the member for South Waterloo. It was ill-advised. Were it not for such business men as Mr. Scott where would the Globe be?

It lives on their advertisements, and if they go down the Globe will go with them. Perhaps it will go before. Let the East clearly understand that the Northwest farmers are out after absolute Free Trade. Medicine Hat proves it. There will be no holding Crerar and Wood back. The people have spoken, and "the voice of the people is the voice of God"—so Crerar has just jubilantly informed us. Already he envisages himself in the seats of power. The law is to go forth from Winnipeg and the Head Office of the U.G.G. We wonder what the business men of the East think of the situation? It should give them furiously to think. One thing is certain: the chasm is unbridgeable. It must be a fight to the finish. Free Trade, with every other nation piling on Protection (even Britain) would produce utter ruin and confusion. The business men of Canada have their backs up against the wall and must fight for their very existence. King will be in no position to help them. Should Crerar, Wood, Drury ever get into power (which God forbid) they would dictate the fiscal policy of the country. Their hatred of the manufacturing East may be irrational and unjustifiable, but it is intense and real. Ontario and Quebec and the other Provinces must send a solid phalanx to Ottawa to combat these extremists or all may be lost.

## French Liberal Denounces The Farmer's Party.

Speaking at a political picnic at Bedford, Quebec, on Saturday, July 2nd, Mr. Joseph Demers, Liberal M.P., said:

"I am sure that our people do not want a government of class. Look at the Farmers' party which exists in Ontario. I say that it is a party of class and anti-democratic, because they want privileges of certain people, and want the people to judge men not by their tolerance and justice, but by their profession or occupation. The principal is false, and a party of that kind cannot live except by making appeals to classes. The existence of a Farmers' party is ephemeral. Its birth was accidental, and it does not meet the needs, and its survival cannot be guaranteed.

Premier Drury asks that it be called the People's Progressive Party. But why all these aliases if there is nothing to conceal?

London Advertiser foresees Premier Meighen's majority shrinking to a "perilous twelve". Perilous or not, it's a safe bet that Mackenzie King would take it if he could get it.

Mr. Ewart will be pleased to learn that so far the British lion has not bitten nor has the unicorn gored any of the overseas statesmen.

## Policy of Farmer's Political Party Would Precipitate Grave Crisis

There is no use blinding our eyes to the facts. The powerful organization of farmers in the middle west are determined to get control of the government of the country. They have thrown the Liberals and their policies overboard and are out to smash the fiscal policy of Canada. No time could be worse for trying experiments, yet the rashness of experiments is to be tried, if these farmers have their way. It is a very serious situation. The financial and commercial structures of the country, built up so laboriously through long years of effort, are in grave peril—are threatened with destruction.

### A One-Sided Game.

Halt for a moment and consider the consequences of a free trade policy in Canada! We are a young country with a scanty, scattered population, situated alongside the greatest civilized country in the world, which possesses manufacturing industries developed to the highest point of perfection and production. enormous natural resources, and an over-abundance of capital. Developed through high protection extending over sixty years, the United States is in an impregnable manufacturing position, and easily able to defy any attempts of our manufacturers to compete with them in their own market. The manufacturers of that country can and do sell to us in enormous volume, but we can only sell to them a few manufactured articles which they cannot provide themselves with, in sufficient quantities, such as pulp and paper. The game, from a manufacturing standpoint, is all one-sided. With their immensely larger market, the manufacturers of the country to the south are able to have vastly larger manufacturing units than our markets would justify, and producing from these units in enormous quantities they are able to reduce costs to a point that we cannot touch. In addition big business is in control in the United States; that is to say, mammoth companies, trusts and combines control the various important lines of production. Compared with these gigantic institutions, with their tremendous financial strength and backing, our industries, big though some of them may appear in our eyes, are pygmies. Mass or quantity production spells also specialization and standardization in manufacturing with corresponding cheapened costs, to an extent unknown and impracticable with our limited and restricted market.

### Magazines Intensify Competition.

Another great advantage the American manufacturer has over ours lies in the fact that his advertising is continent-wide whereas ours is necessarily limited to our own country. The American magazines of all kinds, which constitute the popular advertising medium, circulate as freely in Canada as in the United States. This is perhaps the greatest single agency for the promotion of United States trade in Canada, and the Canadian advertising therein costs the American manufacturer practically nothing as he pays largely on the basis of the U.S. circulation.

### The Dictates of Fashion

A further and very important factor in the promotion of United States trade with Canada is the natural desire of our women-kind, in common with all women, to get the latest, most up-to-date, novel and fanciful in style and fashion for their own personal comfort and adornment, and that of their homes. In this respect the American manufacturers, with their enormous market, practically dominate the situation on the North American Continent. The styles and fashions of the Continent emanate from New York and other United States centres. When you consider that the largest part of the average man's income is expended by his women folks for food, raiment, and home furnishings, and consider also that women have not been educated to think in terms of their country from the economic standpoint, and that they usually—quite naturally too—follow their inclinations and tastes particularly in all questions of personal adornment, it will be evident that the Canadian manufacturer labors under a very severe handicap. What should be his own market, is taken away from him by the American.

It may be truthfully stated that apart from the basic and staple articles of food, clothing, and home

factor is at a great disadvantage in competition in his own market with the U.S. manufacturer. In all articles into which style, fashion, pattern furnishings, the Canadian manufacturer color enter, and as respects articles which might be termed knick-knacks, luxuries, and novelties, the American has a great advantage because of his vastly larger home market which enables him to cater to every variety of taste and cultivate new tastes, and because of the international scope of his advertising.

### Tariff Barriers Must Stand.

In view of all this, does any sane person believe for a moment that our manufacturers could stand up under competition of the United States if our Customs were abolished, as proposed by the western farmer? It is the plain truth that our moderate tariff is the only thing that has stood, and stands, in the way of the manufacturers of the United States gobbling up our whole trade. Notwithstanding our tariff, we are, to a large extent, still hewers of wood and drawers of water for the American. We buy from him a tremendous volume of manufactured necessities—more than we should—and in the process of purchasing them we are being gradually ruined because the more we buy from him the greater is our dollar discounted.

### Employ Canadian Workmen.

Instead of curtailing manufacturing in Canada, as the western farmers propose, the conditions imperatively demand that there be a substantial increase in manufacturing activities. We cannot call ourselves a nation in the real sense of the term until we are far less dependent upon the United States for many of the commodities of life. We cannot restore our dollar to its real hundred cents value easier or better than by producing more goods at home and buying less from the people of the United States. We complain about our scant population, and yet one of the main reasons for that is that we have constantly hundred of thousands of workmen of the United States doing work for us that we could just as well do at home. How can we expect to keep even the small population we have from diminishing if we continue to patronize United States workmen rather than our own?

### Industrial Independence Needed.

Our progress in manufacturing has been very good, all things considered, but it is nothing to brag about. Great fields remain untouched. There is nothing to prevent us from developing our industrial enterprises so as to make us independent, to a large extent, of the United States and make us a great exporting country. We have in abundance all the major potentialities for developing into a

great manufacturing country—namely, water power, raw materials, intelligent and virile labor, and excellent transportation systems.

### The Menace of Free Trade.

Talk of arresting our industrial progress can only emanate from men who do not understand conditions. Talk of uprooting our fiscal system and introducing free trade is nothing short of madness. The men who advocate free trade cannot really be serious. If they are, they either do not understand what they are talking about or they are selfish to the point almost of criminality. Free trade in Canada with protection in the United States would absolutely ruin this country, and do it so expeditiously that it would turn our hair grey in a night. The immediate effect would be that the hundreds of manufacturing plants established by Americans in this country, as branches of their own, would be shut up, because there would be no necessity to maintain them in operation. These Americans can manufacture cheaper in the United States by reason of their larger production there, and if they were able to send their products free of duty into Canada, it would be folly on their part to maintain their Canadian manufacturing establishments. Thus, in the twinkling of an eye the great manufacturing centre, comprising Windsor, Walkerville, Ford, Sandwich, which has been created by the establishment of scores of branches of United States manufacturing concerns, would be converted from a hive of industry into a grave. The same would be true of many of the thriving towns in the eastern townships of Quebec; similar untoward happenings would take place in hundreds of towns throughout the country. Our Tariff brought these American industries over here and the removal of the Tariff would automatically take them away.

### A Selfish Policy.

Have these western farmer agitators no conscience at all? They have never shown any signs that they have investigated manufacturing conditions. They have never attempted to understand the manufacturer's point of view. They appear to attach no importance to the fact that nearly half the population of Canada are engaged directly or indirectly in industrial pursuits, and that with the trade question are bound up the means of livelihood; the welfare of homes, and the lifelong friendships of hundreds of thousands of working families. The idea of these farmers would appear to be that farming in the West must be considered as paramount, and that all other considerations are to be secondary. That

## "Brewster Biggs" Millions.

Beniah Bowman's private car Peter Smith's bond issue, Manning Doherty's mahogany furniture, W. E. Raney's gifts to Buccaneer Backus, are insignificant and petty compared to "Brewster" Biggs' distribution of Ontario's millions on highways at or near the Biggs' estate—son, father, brother-in-law and even more distant relatives all basking in the mania of rock cuts, land damages, expropriation of land, concrete pavements, bituminous roadways, rural boulevards and motor trucks. The exploiters of the Transcontinental and Grand Trunk Pacific lacked imagination and nerve compared to Ontario's "Brewster" Biggs, who may be "unwise" as Hon. Mr. Drury admits but certainly he is assuring the Biggs family of highways in all directions, which are costing more than the construction of our railways through the stupendous passes of the Rockies or penetrating the morass and rock of the uninhabited North Country. The railway mania of twenty years ago was but a slight malaria compared to the yellow fever of "Brewster" Biggs.

Within a few miles of Hon. F. C. Biggs' home, if the elaborate and wasteful road programme is completed, there will be an expenditure of six million dollars. There is an army at work with great expenditure and little progress, except in destroying highways counted the best in Ontario. Take the rock cut which would appall the Canadian Pacific. Here was an excellent road but Hon. F. C. Biggs must straighten it. He constructs two miles consisting of a three-quarters mile rock cut and a long fill. These two miles will cost \$450,000, or the total indebted-

ness of some counties. Highways costing \$275,000 per mile are attracting attention; visitors throng the scene of the work. Here they find a solid rock cut fifty-four feet deep which will have to be roofed in the winter or the drifting snow will render it impassable. But Hon. F. C. Biggs is undaunted and while Ontario can borrow and Drury permits, tunnels, boulevards and viaducts will decorate the picturesque scenery in the vicinity of the Wentworth Biggs' colony. Roads are being destroyed that would be welcomed as adequate in any part of Canada.

Hon. F. C. Biggs' friends admit he is taking no chances of a continued tenure of office and is fixing up the Biggs' neighborhood while the going is good. Extravagance, unnecessary expenditure and costly temporary improvements are plainly in evidence and there may be even worse. The motor truck deal whereby favourites profited is not forgotten and the land damages, paving contracts, and more equipment purchases are yet to be ventilated. Ontario is paying dearly already for Biggs' folly but taxation already soaring will yet be much greater. And all this taxation will give concrete highways, boulevards, and scenic rock cuts to a few while ninety per cent. of the Ontario people will have grades, ruts and dangerous curves of the present.

"Brewster" Biggs at his present rate will have dissipated Ontario's millions in a few years but will be able to reach his favourite resorts on concrete through shady boulevards while the Ontario farmer can market his produce through mud and pay treble taxes.

idea carried to its logical conclusion would mean that farming would be the only substantial industry in the country. Nothing could be more fallacious. The only way to build up a self-sustaining and self-contained nation is to provide for the people the maximum amount of profitable labor in all spheres of human activity. The Farmer policy, put in operation, would be equivalent to a sentence of emigration to the vast majority of our young people, who would be compelled to leave their native land to find avenues of employment for which they are especially fitted. We cannot all be farmers. No two are born alike and scarcely any two develop alike. To provide work for all, according to their mental and physical attributes is the only sane and sensible policy for this country to adopt.

## Get Down to

### Brass Tacks

We challenge the Hon. T. A. Crerar and the Hon. Mackenzie King—if they want to be fair to the people—to discuss the public issues squarely instead of talking in a circle.

The discount of our dollar in the United States is the biggest question in Canada today, yet both these gentlemen are silent about it. We insist that they discuss it. As leaders of political parties and would-be Premiers, the people have a right to demand an expression of their views; have a right to know their opinion as to the effect their policies would have on exchange with the United States.

We challenge both of them to Dispute:—

1. That under free trade or lowered tariff the importations from the United States would be larger.
2. That increased importations from the United States would mean an increased balance of trade against us, especially in view of the raising of the U.S. Tariff walls against our food products, which have constituted our main exports to that country.
3. That an increased balance of trade against us would necessarily mean an increased discount of our dollar and a corresponding increase in the prices of nearly all commodities to the Canadian people.
4. That by importing less from the United States of the goods we can produce at home we would help to restore the rate of exchange, and at the same time give additional employment to Canadian workmen.
5. That if their policies were carried out, the discount of our dollar in the United States would become greater and greater and would be absolutely ruinous to the country.

We have another request to make of these gentlemen. We ask them to take the National Financial Statement in hand and tell us definitely and specifically, in detail, how they, or either of them, would construct the National Budget; how they would raise the necessary revenue, what amount, if any, from Customs, what from Excise, to what extent, if any, they would increase the Income Tax, whether they would restore the Business Profits Tax, what expenditures they would lop off, what they would do with the railways? The public have a right to know what these gentlemen and their parties think about these matters. The public have had a bitter experience with the Farmer Government in Ontario, which has doubled the expenditure and ruined the credit of the Province, and they do not propose to take any chances in the far larger and greater Federal field.

It will not suffice for Mr. Crerar to talk land tax, the idea of which was exploded even by his own advisers. The people want something definite and concrete. The big problem of the Canadian people is how to make bread and butter and keep the Nation's head above water, and the very least that can be expected from men who aspire to the Premiership is that they explain how they would accomplish these objects, and that they do their explaining in such a manner that the people can understand.

### No Time For Change.

We would respectfully ask Mr. Crerar and Mr. King to discuss on the public platform the essentially sensible proposition put forth by the Government that in view of the very abnormal and economical trade situation of the world this is the worst of all possible times to consider a revolution in our fiscal system such as these gentlemen advocate.