

The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 21, 1924

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A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY

The Mackenzie King Government's promise of economy, which is made good in the main estimates, and its intimation that there will be some tariff reduction, gave it a majority of 121 on the first division of the session—a majority said to be larger than any on the record at Ottawa for twenty years past.

The tariff expectations seem to have carried the support of the Progressives to a man, and while the tariff issue caused a few Liberals to kick over the traces in the debate of last night—notably Marler (St. Lawrence), Euler (South Waterloo) and Raymond (Brampton)—the majority of the ministry when the showdown came, and were loudly cheered as they did so. The Conservatives were not strengthened by a single bolter. Their vague amendment calling for the protection of home industries which are already pretty well protected if we except the ports and some few other Canadian institutions, found them with forty-six members to support it, as against 167 who preferred the Government programme.

The defeat of the amendment by a large majority became more and more certain as the debate passed its second week. When it closed in the third week fifty-seven members had said their say, and while many of them tried to secure from the ministry some definite statement of the nature and extent of the proposed tariff reductions every effort along that line ended in failure. The Government's majority on division was considerably larger than was generally expected.

Ottawa opinion following this significant vote appears to be that the tariff changes, while far from radical, will be of more moment than was thought likely when the Speech from the Throne was made. That is to say, observers, in the light of the division and the immense majority it disclosed, think the Government will have sized up the country as ready for much more taxation relief through the tariff than would have been thought wise a year, or even six months ago. The ministry, in analyzing the vote, in other words, may decide that pretty nearly all of the 167 members who voted down the opposition amendment were building extensively upon the tariff paragraph in the Speech, indefinite as it is.

MORE TRADE FOR OUR OWN PORTS.

Hon. Dr. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, in his comparatively short speech in the debate on the Address referred in complimentary terms to the St. John Board of Trade, but carefully refrained from any reference to Government policy with respect to the request of the St. John board that the British preference be confined to goods entering Canada through its own ports. After referring to the paragraph in the Speech from the Throne saying "that every effort will be made still further to develop the policy of Canadian trade via Canadian ports," Hon. Mr. King said:

"Action by this Government last year in making the extended British preference applicable to goods brought in through Canadian ports has been a remarkable fruit, and it has insured to the benefit of Atlantic and Pacific ports. It has been found that since that legislation became effective, from the month of May to January of this year, over \$50,195,000 worth of goods coming in under the preference has been actually entered."

And I find that on the sea-board where people are watching for development, they have already seen the result of this policy. The St. John Board of Trade, an influential public body, writes on March 11 as follows:

"Dear Sir:—The St. John Board of Trade desires to state that it most heartily approved of the British preferential tariff clause which passed the last session of Parliament, being of the opinion that it would be made wholly applicable to Canadian ports, and that these ports will be greatly benefited thereby."

"The St. John Board of Trade would renew its expression of approval of this preferential arrangement and would earnestly request that it be made to apply altogether to Canadian ports."

"A determination of this nature would undoubtedly lead to the development of Canadian trade via Canadian ports, as was suggested by His Excellency the Governor General in his Speech from the Throne."

"Appreciating this expression on the part of His Excellency and action on the Government can take in this great enterprise."

R. E. ARMSTRONG,
Secretary, St. John Board of Trade.

"I read this letter in order that the members of this House may have knowledge of the effect of the policy as introduced at the last session of Parliament in the matter of British trade and British preference."

"This is a question that may well come up again when the Government discloses the promised tariff changes. The restriction of the preference to goods coming direct would not diminish the public revenue, and undoubtedly it would mean a great deal more business for Canadian ports and Canadian railways. Incoming cargoes were light during the first part of our winter port season. They would be heavier

under the proposed preferential policy, and increased imports direct would mean larger export cargoes."

SPEAKING UP FOR THE MARITIMES.

Following up and strongly endorsing Mr. Mackenzie King's demand for justice for the Maritime Provinces, Mr. Harold Putnam, M. P. for Colchester, celebrated St. Patrick's Day in the House by informing the members of the Commons that Confederation had not served these provinces nearly so well as might reasonably be expected. After complimenting Mr. Logan, the member for Colchester proceeded briefly to discuss the growth of population in the Dominion.

In 1871 the population of Ontario was 1,620,881, and in 1921 it had increased to 2,938,622, or an increase of more than eighty per cent. Quebec's population in 1871 was 1,191,816 and in 1921 it had increased to 2,261,199, or over 100 per cent. Nova Scotia's population in 1871 was 387,800, and in 1921 it had increased to 528,837, or an increase of less than forty per cent. New Brunswick's population in 1871 was 285,594, and in 1921, 387,876 or an increase of less than forty per cent. Prince Edward Island's population in 1871 was 94,021, and in 1921 it had decreased to 88,615, or almost ten per cent.

These figures, he suggested, are prima facie evidence "that we were not given a fair deal in the device of Confederation." "Without wearying the House," Mr. Putnam continued, "I wish to contrast the difference between the Maritime Provinces and the central provinces by the test of increase in population, and I say that on the face of it, it raises the presumption that Confederation is economically a comparatively bad thing for us. In putting this claim before you I ask this administration and this Parliament to seek carefully for the remedy, and for the British principle of fair play and of even-handed justice to all."

There will be in the Maritime Provinces hearty endorsement of these members of either the House or the Senate who take opportunity to impress upon Parliament and upon the country at large the fact that a healthful growth in the Maritimes is good for Canada, that Confederation can only be sound when it brings well-rounded development in every part of the Dominion, and that the principle of national justice may not safely be ignored.

New Brunswick's Department of Health receives a striking tribute in the preliminary report of Vital Statistics for the month of August, 1923, just published. In that month the infant mortality rate in this province was 77.1 per 1,000 births, which is lower than that of several other provinces. The general death rate for that month was 9.4 per 100, as compared with 9.5 for Ontario, 10.4 for Nova Scotia, and 9.8 for P. E. I. In August for the four years since close records were kept the figures were: 1920, 10.6, 1921, 14, 1922, 11.5 and 1923, 9.4. The marriage rate in New Brunswick last August was the highest in Canada and the birth rate was higher than in any other province. Manitoba excepted. So great and so steady an improvement in the health of the province is of very great interest and importance and reflects no little credit upon the department.

Sir Richard Squires, former Prime Minister of Newfoundland, is found "absolutely and definitely" guilty of receiving "presents" from the Dominion Iron and Steel Company to the tune of \$40,000, with the knowledge, consent and approbation of high officials of that company. "Approbation" is good. The former Premier appears also to have received some \$20,000 of liquor taxes which should have gone into the public treasury. Now, the question is, What do they do about such little matters as this in Newfoundland?

Speaking of the decline of dangerous radicalism the editor of the Saturday Evening Post says there has been a remarkable increase of sanity in the United States even since 1922. The Reds in America command little attention today, he says. And he adds this reference to the Old Country: "Finally, the long-heralded and much-dreaded Labor Government has come into being in England. Its performances to date suggest that it will be highly conservative in its application of radicalism. It came in like a lion, but almost certainly it will go out like a lamb."

Winston Churchill, who came within forty-five votes of winning in the four-cornered fight in the Conservative Abbey division, made a striking exhibition of strength and popularity. His defeat deprives Parliament, temporarily of an able, vigorous and picturesque figure—and only temporarily. He will get a seat

presently, and when he does he will be a sharp thorn in the Government's side.

A noted publicist says the industrial workers of Russia are today receiving about thirty-five per cent. of what they earned under the hated capitalist system, while the population of the cities and towns is but half what it was before the revolution.

Press Comment

IF WAR COMES AGAIN

(Toronto Star.)
When the representatives of the great powers met at the Washington conference and agreed upon a reduction of naval armaments we expressed regret that Mr. Balfour's proposal was not adopted and restrictions placed on competitive construction of submarines and air forces. For, as we said at the time, these were the weapons with which future wars would be fought.

There is, too, the chance that Admiral Sir Percy Scott was right in declaring the battleship obsolete. If he was right then the action of the great powers at the Washington conference in agreeing to scrap battleships under construction or already planned was but a fine gesture—it was not making a virtue of necessity, abandoning a type of naval armament that would no longer suffice to arm the rival nations. If he is right that is about what happened at the Washington conference.

If he is not mistaken human invention, as applied to the methods of international strife, has taken some such stride as when gun-powder made obsolete the bow and arrow, or as when steam replaced sailing fleets. The aeroplane will dominate warfare, and the only boat that will have a chance is the submarine.

Already Britain has a submarine which can come to the surface and fire a gun almost equal in range and weight of projectile to any weapon carried by a dreadnaught. There is no agreement preventing any nation building all such vessels she sees fit. France has specialised in air force. She has war bombing planes which outnumber those of Britain ten to one, or, if you like, a thousand to a hundred. Britain is going to do a little in the way of increasing her air force.

The change the aeroplane has made is not fully realized. People still use the old-fashioned terms of land, sea and air. They say that Britain must have an air force strong enough for her defense, and France claims her air force as for defence purposes. But the strength of an air force is in bombing planes, which are not for defense, but attack.

Instead of armies of infantry, cavalry and artillery seeking each other out and engaging in battle, the rival air forces would not so much fight each other as evade each other and carry death and destruction to the cities and populations of the enemy country. Incendiary bombs would fall from miles in the air, and the aeroplanes that dropped them would be as difficult to intercept or interfere with as a flock of wild geese flying high in the night. Two nations would not so much fight with each other as carry out simultaneously the work of utterly wrecking each other. It would not be a battle of attrition, but a battle of attack and defense, but all attack. All the sport would be gone from war, and only death and ruin remain. With fire bombs, high explosives, poison gases, even civilisation itself might be prostrated.

A FAMOUS LONDON CLUB

(Toronto Globe.)
The Athenaeum, of which Premier Ramsay MacDonald has been elected a member, was founded in London 100 years ago "for the association of individuals known for scientific or literary attainments, artists of eminence in any class of the fine arts, and noblemen and gentlemen distinguished as liberal patrons of science, literature or the arts."

Many eminent men have joined the club by the ordinary course of the law, but one of the rules gives the committee the power to elect as extraordinary members Princes of the blood Royal, Cabinet Ministers, Bishops, all the Archbishops and most Judges and Bishops have thus joined the club. In connection with the centenary Mr. Henry R. Taylor, late Secretary and Librarian, has contributed to The Times an interesting history of the club. The two horse-blocks in Waterloo Place, he says, were placed in 1807, and the Duke of Wellington about the year 1800 when he rode from Piccadilly to visit the Athenaeum, and it would be difficult to take a step inside the house without arousing recollections of illustrious dead. It was in the front hall that Thackeray and Dickens became reconciled after a quarrel. During the most exciting days of the Turkish War, Beaconsfield, solemn and aloof, came constantly to the reading-room to read "what was going on in the papers." A memorable event was the dinner on July 25, 1902, to celebrate the institution of the Order of Merit by King Edward VII. Of the twelve foundation members of the Order nine were members of the Athenaeum.

The South Library, the largest of the book rooms, is full of reminiscences. Many famous men of letters have worked here. Some portions of "Emerson" were dictated by Thackeray to Eyre Crowe at the central round table, at which, in after years, Richard Burton doggedly sat throughout the day, snuff-box at his side, busy at his translation of the "Arabian Nights"; and, after him, Andrew Lang, bending over the table, writing for long hours without notes or references. The story told to the English history section was the favorite chair of Macaulay, after him frequently used by Hallam, Sir Henry Maine, Matthew Arnold, Mark Pattison and Lord Acton. At the other corner, John Morley, when he edited The Pall Mall Gazette, came every day after he had "put the paper to bed" and sought rest in a large arm-chair.

Smoking was unknown in the Athenaeum before 1862, when, after some hesitation, a small attic room was given over to the practice. This remained the sole accommodation until 1868; billiard and smoking rooms were then excavated under the garden on the south side. In the billiard room, Herbert Spencer played the game as an athletic or hygienic exercise, but always denied the authority of the story told to the effect that he once said to a junior opponent that "proficiency in billiards was proof of a mispent life."

MY SCHOOL BOOKS

(Ottawa Citizen.)
My school books! Dear old school books; 'Tis years since last we met, And many a milestone I have passed, And many a vain regret. 'Twas filled my heart with longing for days of long ago, Since you, dear school books, were my pride, my friends thru weal and woe.

Time was, when you were newly bound and beautiful to see, With dark and shining covers from spot or blemish free; And each one had its thumb-nail-of which there was great need— And my name, in hieroglyphics, that few could ever read.

You recall the old gray school house and the teacher's kindly face, As she calmly called the classes, telling each to take his place; When I jostled hard for my place at the bottom of the row— And sang off my recitation, which was "Twenty Years Ago."

I can hear the noisy humming like the drowsy song of bees, I can hear the soft winds sighing thru' the stately maple trees. I can hear the faltering voices, faintly murmuring each line, When we went o'er "Faithful Fido" and "Bingen on the Rhine."

I can see the slanting sunbeams as they fell across the floor, Where the carefully planned notes marked the hours of twelve and four. There the water-pail was standing, on a bench all smeared with ink, And each one took his turn in asking "Please may I have a drink?"

Dear old school books! These are memories which can never be effaced, Buried deep within my heart—nor can they ever be replaced— Still my treasures, forgotten, on this shelf beneath the dust, I shall love you, till I'm roaming where the gold will never rust.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Hobo's Little Wants.
Housewife—"Here, my poor man, is an out suit of my husband's, you can have."
"Thankes, greatly, mum. I see it's a little large, but if you'll kindly furnish me with a square meal mobby 'can I cut it?"

'Tis Often a Battle.
George—"Let's play we're married!" Little Mary—"No, I daan't, because mamma said we should eat nice and not quarrel when we played."

Might Is Right.
Woman—"Mamma, Tommy won't give me his tooth."
His Mother—"It's his dear. He probably wants to keep it himself."
Willie—"Well, it ought to be mine, cause I knocked it out!"

The Prime Penail.
Director—"Say, you big boob, you've got about thirty feet of film. You walked 'giz into the lens and spoiled the picture."
Screen Struck—"Hugli! I guess that couldn't be 'spoil' the picture. That'll make it her masterpiece!"

Deadly Missiles.
Mrs. June Swide—"I made this lovely pan of biscuits for his dinner, Judge, and he got mad at something and threw them at me."
The Magistrate—"Guilty of assault with dangerous and deadly weapons."

SMALL GAME PLENTIFUL THERE.
(Wall Street Journal.)
Coolidge has not accepted invitation to hunt lions in Colorado. He can find the finest coyote hunting in the world right in Washington.

The first rubber pavement in the United States has just been laid on a railroad-crossing in Racine, Wisconsin.

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PROVINCIAL AGENTS

A NEW JERSEY DEVIL.

Students of natural history will be most interested, says the Indianapolis News, in a report from Atlantic City that for a second time in ten days "the Jersey Devil" has made footprints in the sand or snow. Ten years have passed since the devil was reported from any part of New Jersey. His return has excited the whole State. The official report made by Chief of Police Devereaux at Margate City says:

"A large animal, species undetermined, about seven feet high, with huge wings shaped like an albatross, and four legs, appeared last night in a vacant lot adjoining City Hall. I fired several shots at the animal, which I have reason to believe to be the Jersey devil, and it disappeared in the shadows of the very dark night."

The report is confirmed by Captain A. Hackney of the Margate City fire department. Examination made after the beast disappeared showed four cloven hoof prints in the sand. Apparently the devil had alighted and then taken flight without budging from its tracks. Ten days previously the Jersey devil was reported from Bridgeton, thirty-two miles from Atlantic City. At that time it left tracks in the snow. According to a tradition in New Jersey, a Mrs. Leeds, the mother of twelve children, said that if another child came she hoped it would be a devil. In due time the thirteenth came, with a full set of cloven hoofs, wings and a forked tail.

Perhaps the thing is a dinosaur. The price of dinosaur eggs, following recent discoveries on the plains of Mongolia, has gone up to \$10,000 each. One of them was purchased by a museum at that figure. The rest of the setting is still for sale, but baby chicks and eggs have not been interested because the eggs are reputed to be one million years old. Science should organize an expedition to hunt down the least or else there should be stricter enforcement of the prohibition law on the Jersey coast."

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FAIRVILLE LEAGUE MEETS.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was the subject of the address of Rev. James M. Rice at the meeting of the Fairville Methodist Epworth League this week. Miss Vera Wayland presided. Miss Edna Shaw, president of the senior league, presided at the meeting which followed the meeting of the juniors. Stories in connection with the familiar songs were told and the members assisted with anecdotes of the writers and in singing some of the songs.

About 20,000 watches are sold in Mexico annually.

AUXILIARY HOLDS DANCE.

A dance was held under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Dominion Express Brotherhood in their lodge rooms Monday night. One of the pleasant features of the evening was the rendition of several solos by H. C. Marley. A local orchestra furnished the programme.



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