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ADEQUATE NOT HIGH PROTECTION

Portage la Prairie, Man.—Digressing for a few minutes from his avowed intention of not discussing politics while on his present visit to his constituents of Portage la Prairie, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen turned aside to answer a criticism of previous utterances on the tariff. He declared that he had never advocated a tariff brick for brick with that of the United States, except in relation to farm produce.

Mr. Meighen, in opening his remarks, said that he had been warned against accepting the Portage la Prairie nomination by his friends and allies in the Conservative party. No triumph of the election was greater than that of Portage, and no single event had done more to strengthen his hand than had his election to represent the constituency.

There was no statement, he continued, he had made during the election that he wished to qualify or retract.

"I have never," he said, "used the expression of a tariff wall brick for brick with the United States, except in relation to farm produce. They shut out our produce from their markets and we should shut out theirs from ours. For manufactured goods there should be a policy of protection, not brick for brick, but sufficient to stop the emigration from our land, assist our industries, and enable them to exist. By that principle I stand and that pledge I repeat. The people of Canada voted overwhelmingly for protection. The people of Quebec did not vote for low tariff, nor did the people of the Atlantic, he said. There was a verdict about the issue about which there can be no mistake. The people of Canada would prefer to have a protection policy put into force by those who preached it rather than by those who derided it throughout the country."

Joseph Bernier, M.P.P., made a plea for tolerance with the people of Quebec. The people of Canada, he said, would not be discouraged with the people of Quebec or believe that they were antagonistic toward Mr. Meighen. He declared that the Quebec majorities of the Liberal party had been cut 50 per cent. at the last election. He said the people of Quebec admired Mr. Meighen as a man who was not afraid to say in Quebec what he said in Portage la Prairie, and predicted that the time was coming when they would support him.

A MOST MERRY CHRISTMAS- AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Courtesy of Industrial Accident Prevention Associations, Excelsior Life Building, Toronto, Canada.

FAILURE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE STORES

In the Toronto "Mail and Empire" of Tuesday, December 15th, appeared an advertisement notifying the public that under the bankruptcy act, there would be exposed for sale by tender, all the assets of the Guelph Co-operative Association, Guelph, Ontario, which for some years has done business in that city, retailing groceries, butcher meats, bakers' goods, gentlemen's furnishings, drygoods, hardware, crockery, toys, fancy goods, coal and coke.

When the success of the British system of retail co-operation is considered, it engenders some reflections upon the failure of co-operation in Canada. Analysis shows that the conditions under which the British co-operative movement has grown up cannot be duplicated here. There you have a largely industrial country forced by the pressure of population to secure a great portion of her foodstuffs from other sources. Here can be grown and manufactured practically everything necessary for human sustenance and comfort. In Britain huge store combinations, such as the British Argentina Meat Company have been able to exercise such an influence as to set the price of meat. Here the individual retailer is greatly in the majority. These facts have mitigated against the success of the Canadian co-operative movement and there seems no probability that it will ever become successful. The losses as published at the annual meetings of the United Farmers' Co-operative Society need only be recalled to amplify this fact, and the losses suffered by the Labor movement of Toronto in several successive attempts to found co-operative stores furnish further proof.

Any working man or woman who is induced to take shares in any proposed new venture on these lines is very likely after a year or two's operation to find that they have invested their money in a losing concern and be painfully impressed with the futility of the co-operative movement in Canada.

The one salient fact that stands out clear is that the individual retailer is a permanent fixture in the trading life of the country and has done his job remarkably well with efficient operation, cheapness to the consumer and benefit to the community. Investigation has shown that no combines exist in foodstuffs but on the contrary every effort to give the consumer the economies of modern production accompanied by the ideal of service.

A little higher in price, but—
what a wonderful difference
a few cents make

PLAYER'S
NAVY CUT
CIGARETTES

Russia Unable to Provide Work for over 1,300,000 Unemployed

Moscow.—The experience of the Soviet Union in the matter of unemployment up to the present time would seem to indicate that a change of social system does not necessarily involve a solution of all social problems. The problem of finding work for idle hands is quite as sharp in Russia as it is in the countries of western Europe.

Up to Sept. 1, 1925, 1,100,000 unemployed were registered on the labor exchanges of the cities and towns: and it is calculated that there may be at least 200,000 more who are not registered. This gives a total figure of 1,300,000 for the urban unemployed, out of a city population of approximately 2,000,000.

The union of the batraki, or agricultural workers, further reports that 200,000 of these laborers are out of work in summer and 700,000 in winter. Still another angle of the unemployment problem is represented by peasants who are unable to till their land effectively for lack of horses and working animals.

It is calculated that the expansion of the industries and the transportation system will require the services of 100,000 new workers and employees during the next year. As against this favorable factor in reducing unemployment, it is reckoned that the natural increase of the population will amount to 300,000, and that there

will be an influx of 250,000 peasants into the cities.

A sum of 50,000,000 rubles has been appropriated for the construction of roads and other public works in the country districts. These public works will give employment to 100,000 people for eight months.

Efforts are being made to organize the nomadic casual village laborers. It is pointed out that there is a considerable need of unskilled labor in the forests of the Urals and the far east, and the suggestion has been made that it would be worth while from the social standpoint, for the government to stand the expense of transporting these men to where they are most needed.

Finally, it is proposed to instruct 10,000 of the village unemployed in the operation of tractors, which are being used more and more in Russian farming.

King George's Navy

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