

# Dangerous Political Trend

## GROUP GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE DIRE EFFECT

The following article is taken from The Army and Navy Magazine of Montreal:

While the Army and Navy Veterans' Association is strictly a non-political organization, this fact need not prevent us discussing economic policies and principles from a broad and impartial viewpoint. Business conditions, particularly the great amount of unemployment, are due to certain reasons, and it is for us to endeavour to obtain a satisfactory explanation of their cause and effect.

That financial depression is of world-wide dimensions must be admitted. From a Canadian standpoint, however, are there no certain events transpiring here which accentuate the lack of employment due directly to business depression?

Is it reasonable to expect the commercial and industrial leaders of this country to invest their capital, to purchase raw material, and to turn it into the finished product when there are political and economic forces at work threatening to disrupt and revolutionize our political and industrial life? In saying this we do not refer to radicalism and Bolshevism, but to the policy of free trade which has been adopted as one of the planks in the platform of the Farmers' Party.

### Dire Result of Free Trade.

We believe that many of our readers, and that the farmers themselves fail to realize the dire results that unquestionably would ensue from a free trade policy, more particularly in view of the recently increased protective tariff of the United States.

This is not a question of theoretical or academic debate as to the relative merits of the policies of free trade and protection. It may or may not be desirable for a country like Great Britain to adopt free trade. Each country must be governed to a large extent by its geographical position and the character of its natural resources, to mention only two of the many factors to be taken into consideration.

In Canada it is not difficult to decide that at least a reasonably protective tariff is absolutely essential for her very existence. The political and industrial history of this country really began shortly after confederation when Sir John A. MacDonald, Canada's Premier at the time, in-

augurated what was known as the National Policy.

### Reasonable Degree of Protection.

The outstanding feature of that policy sought to make Canada as far as possible an economically independent country. Its object was to build up industry by extending to it a reasonable degree of protection so that Canadian industries could compete with the large U.S. factories distributing their goods in this country. How successfully this was achieved is shown by our industrial growth.

It could not be expected then, nor can it be expected now, that Canadian companies can compete with U.S. industrial concerns with their large capital, practical monopoly, and extensive market, on a basis of absolute equality. In manufacturing and production on a large scale specialization and standardization are all important factors, and in these respects U.S. firms are at a distinct advantage.

Since the time of Sir John A. MacDonald, even during the regime of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the national policy remained unchanged in its tariff provisions. The total average change in the tariff as enacted by Hon. W. S. Fielding during his entire term of office was less than one quarter of one per cent., practically nil.

### Spectre of a Farmers' Party.

If the Farmers' Party, a confessedly free trade organization, as set forth in its platform, should obtain the reins of office, the result will be nothing more and nothing less than the disruption of Canada's industrial fabric, increased financial depression, and consequently increased unemployment.

The spectre of a Farmers' Party in control of the Federal Government is already looming up on the political horizon, and has even now a potentially depressing effect upon industry.

Returned men and others should see to it that a purely class and group government, such as the Farmers' Party,—particularly one that would destroy forever the economic policy which Canada has successfully pursued during the last fifty years—meets with swift and certain defeat when it appeals for political support at the polls in the next general elections.

## Still Fighting the "Family Compact"

We quote the following delightful rallery from the Montreal "Star."

Mr. William Lyon MacKenzie King must be a great delight to the spirit of his renowned ancestor from whom he derives three-fourths of his name and rather a larger proportion of his political pabulum. Naturally his nomenclature and his ideas are also early Victorian—if not redolent of the days before Lord Durham. When he means the "Conservative Party of Canada," he spits out "Toryism," though there has been no proper "Toryism" in Canada since the reign of the Family Compact.

But William Lyon Mackenzie King does not limit himself to the language of the spacious days before Robert Baldwin sought to separate his sanity from the futile madness of the first William Lyon Mackenzie by terming himself a "Reformer"—and Robert Baldwin, it may be recalled, was a political generation ahead of Sir John Macdonald, who was himself a generation ahead of Sir Robert Borden. The contemporary "William Lyon Mackenzie" adopts also the theories, the infuriating visions, the political objectives of the fiery Radical who allowed his zeal to sweep him into rebellion. It reads precisely like a message from the spirit world when we hear a "William Lyon Mackenzie" mouthing this sort of fustian:

"The situation today is that the political, industrial, and, to a considerable extent also, the social life

of Canada, lies enthralled under the subtle and malignant influences of combined autocratic and political control, which seeks only the aggrandisement of a few individuals at the expense of the State, and is regardless of the well-being of the people at large."

It was exactly in such terms that the eloquent and impetuous founder of the line was wont to assail the "Tory" clique who governed the young Colony from a "star chamber" and fought "responsible government" as one of the seven deadly sins. Mr. King has been stealing the century-old thunder of his progenitor.

Still there is something romantically medieval about the fine old cinquecento phrasing that flows so mellifluously from the tongue of young Mr. King. Not only does the political and industrial life of this unhappy nation "lie enthralled" under "subtle and malignant influences," but "the social life of Canada" as well is subject to these sinister and Median forces. It recalls the grim days of Lorenzo the Magnificent and the deadly Borgias. We instinctively hope that when we locate these "subtle and malignant influences"—we trust that the erstwhile collaborator with the Rockefeller Foundation will not object to this American locution—we shall find them housed in some such fitting stronghold as the Palazzo Vecchio or the Castle of St. Angelo. It would be terribly disillusioning to discover them in an Ottawa hotel or a Toronto club.

### Self! Self! Self!

One could have some sympathy with the viewpoint of the organized farmers if they were able truthfully to say that their conclusions had been reached after they had made an impartial enquiry into Canadian manufacturing conditions, including cost of production, extent of market, competition from specialized and standardized industries from the United States, from Great Britain and from the cheap labour of Germany, Japan and other countries, and, after they had given consideration to the national necessity of providing an abundance of varied labour to the people. But the truth is they have never attempted to understand the manufacturer's position, never attempted to study his problems and difficulties, never given any thought to the needs of others, and, consequently, their attitude is not that of fair-minded men. It is the attitude of selfish extremists bent only on having their own way.

### All Mr. King has to do

Mr. Mackenzie King, having announced that he favours a tariff for revenue without protection, has a great opportunity to make a bold and courageous move which would prove his sincerity. All he has to do is to take the customs tariff schedules and set forth opposite the various items the rates of duty he would impose to get the required revenue. Having publicly abjured protection, it is not necessary for him to make any investigation as to industrial conditions. His tariff is to be for revenue only and as he knows with accuracy how much revenue is required it would not be a difficult task for him to fix these revenue rates. Freed from the protective aspect the task is so simple indeed that almost anyone versed in figures could accomplish it. Will he do it or will he continue to bamboozle the people with meaningless rhetoric?

## THE GRIST MILL

Premier Drury will appoint a Commission to find out what the matter is with business and to revive it. Premier Drury is evidently going to give King Canute a run for the money.

Somebody asks what is the fiscal policy of the National Progressive Party. Well, judging by Leader Crerar's remarks, they'll try anything once.

Fears are expressed that Washington in August may be too hot for the visiting statesmen. All they've got to do is to think of the tariff and that will give them a chill.

They say Premier Drury is being groomed for Ottawa. The justly celebrated Mr. Aesop has written a number of fables which apply to Mr. Drury's case—notably the frog who would be an ox.

It's welcome news that Jazz is on the decline. We remember that the world danced itself crazy—like the savages—and then the Great War.

Canada's share is three hundred million dollars "if" the Germans can pay it. As Shakespeare says there is much virtue in an "if." In other words it behooves us not to let the great expectations throw us out of our steady gait.

Ontario went bone-dry July 28th. There isn't a hiccup anywhere in the province except in Scotch songs like "Comin' Thru the Rye," "Willie Brewed a Peck o' Malt" and such. A concert tour by Harry Lauder has been scratched—too many hops in his dances.

It is all very well to talk of disarmament, but where is the Senator who is willing to part with his false teeth?

Again we would warn Premier Drury against straying from his own flower pot. We have seen so many reputations wither on the vine, when transplanted to Ottawa.

Toronto Globe is much alarmed at what happened to the Liberals in Alberta. Like the man who was kicked down stairs, it is almost convinced that they're not wanted in there.

The Drury Government rather thinks that a man will be able to bring it into Ontario "on the hip" without molestation from the authorities, which goes to show that uplift hesitates to goad the wet vote into reprisals.

Sunny Alberta! Funny Alberta! Not so darned funny at that, growls Mackenzie King.

Little drops of water, little grains of sand, are no good to anyone when the land goes dry.

Red Michael was chosen candidate by the U.F.'s of Red Deer the other day. The doctor's mind is now at peace and he can swallow the weather van.

We understand that the Hon. Chas. Murphy has a brilliant idea. He would use the German indemnity as a pulmotor fund for the grand, old Liberal party.

The real trouble with the group system, as the Toronto Globe sees it, is that there is no place for the shade of George Brown to hang up his hat.

A cursory glance at the Opposition press reveals the fact that the right of Free Speech is being well maintained. They exercise it mostly to tell Premier Meighen not to walk on their feet.

Fair play is a good, old, Anglo-Saxon principle. We understand that the Redistribution Act will try to have it extended to the cities.

Chances are that Ireland will be allowed to make her own tariff. Strange how all these new-born little nations brush free trade aside and think only of self-preservation!

Mr. Backus aims to control a watershed of twenty-six thousand square miles. The Drury Government is indifferent, cowsheds being more in its line.

Rumour has it that the Ontario Government will bring in a Succession Duties Act next session which will go a long way toward making virtue more than ever its own reward.

The large body of water which once covered the prairie plateau disappeared aeons ago. Apparently the U.F.'s got across before the Red Sea of those parts had a real chance at them.

The Hon. George Graham is the Liberal candidate in South Essex. He seems to have arrived just in time for the wake.

# The Oracle from Missouri

## ALBERTA'S POLITICAL BOSS ISSUES PRONUNCIAMENTO

It is now possible to take the full measure of the Colossus from Missouri. He has put himself on record. He should have remembered the cry of Job, "Oh, that mine adversary had written a book." In the hour of victory he humble" does not seem to appeal to the Woods, Crerars' and Morrisons. "The people have proclaimed us perfect and the people are infallible and unchanging" would seem to be the arguments.

The first sentence of Mr. Woods' pronouncement gives the measure of his mind. His grasp of logic and history is infantile. He seems to labor under the impression that heretofore representative institutions have been the monopoly of a political caste, and that the people have had no hand in the game except to vote.

"We have long had representative government," he announces with a naïveté which is touching, "but it has been government of the people by their own representatives. Just a autocratic, though not so tyrannical as the typical Monarchical Government." Coming from the political Boss of Alberta who has mixed up the grain business with politics for a decade and is today an autocrat, this is rich indeed. Mr. Wood knows that so far as the farmers of Alberta are concerned, he holds them in the hollow of his hand. They are waiting for the god to speak. What he represents is a triumph of American methods through propaganda carried on by means of a purely business organization. We trust it is the last time, as it certainly is the first, that the phenomenon has made its appearance in Canada.

"What the people" want now is self government through their representatives," says Mr. Wood. Was ever a more fatuous sentence penned? Presumably, till Wood appeared, there has been no representative government in the world. Now for the first time we have it. And what kind of a government exclusively of one class, with but one interest—in which Wood is commercially interested—Wheat. And this is Representative Government! It is certainly self-government—Ourselves—farmers, and to the demer with the rest of the community.

Ontario's experience of "group-perfection" has made us suspicious of the superior virtue and incorruptibility of the farmer-politician. In fact we have discovered that the practical result of having departed from well-tried paths is to land us in inefficiency, gross favoritism, wild extravagance and actual paralysis.

"They" (the elect) "will not have to devote their time, talent and energy to the political game, as the voters who elect them will hereafter attend to political affairs themselves", continues Mr. Wood.

Won't they, Mr. Wood! You watch! Just let some upstart who primps himself that "he is as good as Jones" start interfering with Jones' fences in his absence and see if Jones will sit meekly down after having enjoyed the pleasures of life at the Provincial Capital. We have a shrewd suspicion that the old game of hand-shaking, baby-kissing, extravagant promising at the Millennium will go on and that the result of the people "attending to political affairs themselves" will be that the present freak-legislature of Alberta will be relegated to obscurity and a new one based on sound constitutional practices take its place to the health and saving of the Nation.

On the whole, after having read the latest words of political wisdom from Alberta, we are glad that Wood has displaced Crerar and the voluble Michael. When the people of Canada take his measure and realize his sinister intentions, they will make short work of his shallow fantasies.

The Alberta Elections. Newspapers are still being received containing editorials on the recent elections in Alberta, the writers dealing with the subject from every point of view. Following extract is from

The Times-Journal, St. Thomas (July 20)—

"Alberta will thus be the first province of the Dominion where a farmers' government will have an entirely free hand both in administration and in the formulation and direction of policies."

"They fought the electoral battle mainly on the broad issue that the party system was iniquitous in itself, irrespective of the virtues or merits of the particular government concerned."

## Anything to Hurt the Government

We are afraid the "Grain Growers' Guide,"—the farmers' political bible—is not very careful in the matter of its facts, which it uses to belabor the Government. In its issue of July 6th last, it had the following:

"A few weeks working of the new tariff regulations and the increased sales tax, is bringing light to business men whether or not the general public has realized all that Sir Henry Drayton meant when he said that the tariff would not be increased, but a few alterations would be made in the Customs regulations.

"Take for instance imports from the United States. Before the alterations included in the budget were brought into force the valuation for customs on goods coming from the United States was based on the fair market price of the goods invoiced, in the United States; practically on the invoice price. The sales tax was then two per cent. In a concrete case, comprising a shipment of 1,917 gallons of gasoline, it worked out thus: The invoice price was \$182. At 30 per cent., the duty amounted to \$54.60, which added to \$182 gives \$236.60 as the duty paid value. On this there was a sales tax of two per cent., amounting to \$4.73, the total tax thus amounting to \$59.33. Sir Henry Drayton amended the Customs Act so as to include in the value for duty the exchange, thus making the

value for duty not the exporter's selling price of the goods but the actual cost to the purchaser. The above shipment made after June 4, would pay 30 per cent., on the invoice price plus the exchange, which at say 11 per cent., would make the value for duty \$202.02. The customs duty would therefore be \$60.60. The sales tax, now four per cent., would make \$10.50, the total taxes amounting to \$71.10, an increase of \$11.70 equivalent to an increase in the price of the gasoline of three-quarters of a cent per gallon."

Observe particularly that a concrete case was stated. No such concrete case ever existed or could have existed. The facts are (1) that the duty on gasoline such as we presume the paper refers to is 2½ cents per gallon (other qualities of gasoline are free of duty) and not 30 per cent, ad valorem, as stated by it and upon which its calculations are based; and (2) that for customs duty purposes the addition of exchange is not applicable where, as in this case, the duty is specific and not ad valorem. Further the invoice price in the alleged concrete case works out at a little over 9 cents per gallon which is away below the average price of gasoline imported into Canada.

Instead of being called a concrete case, it has all the appearance of a manufactured case for the purpose of exaggerating the true situation and injuring the Government.

## SUMMARY OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TAKING CARE OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT BOARD	
Returned men placed on land Loans	20,122 \$ 81,345,948
SOLDIER CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT	
Number of men treated	108,061
Number vocationally trained	40,000
Placed in employment	101,000
PENSIONS BOARD	
Number to whom pensions awarded	110,702
Annual pensions in force	\$ 31,169,520
WAR SERVICE GRATUITY	
Amount paid	\$164,000,000
RETURNED SOLDIERS' INSURANCE	
Amount in force	5,225,000
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION	
Returned soldiers placed in positions	29,084
DEPENDENTS RETURNED	
Number of dependents returned	47,000