

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 20, 1924

MR. BARNJUM QUILTS

Mr. F. J. D. Barnjum, a retired lumberman whose letters favoring an embargo on the export of Canadian pulpwood, from private as well as public land, have been frequent and broadcast for a year or two past, is said to be going to sell out and quit Canada. He says he feels that after spending the best part of three years, together with a very considerable fortune, in trying to connect Canadianians to their duty in connection with our fast-waning resources, he has come to the conclusion that the cause of forest conservation in Canada might as well be abandoned. If the people do not want conservation, he argues, and if the government is "derelict" and "indifferent," he sees no reason why he should continue to exhaust his strength, etc.

So he is going to offer for sale his land, pulp mills, farms, houses, and whatever other property he owns in Nova Scotia "and join the exodus to another country."

Let us note that the case is not hopeless. Mr. Barnjum has not gone yet. Moreover, while he will offer his lands and mills for sale, it is yet to be seen at what price. Also, he says he believes timberlands will double in value in two years. Mr. Barnjum may reconsider; but if he goes his hands and his timber will remain.

Nor is that all. He is too suddenly and too greatly despairing. The people who do not agree with him in thinking the country is going to the dogs are very much newer right than he is. He ought to stay a while and see. Events will cheer him and revive his faith. He is not the first man with whom people and governments have disagreed. He has piped extensively and Canada has not yet yanked to his tune but to quit the country on that account only punishes himself, not the other eleven jurors, so to speak. The exodus of which he speaks should be viewed in the light of official figures telling of the great stream of returning exiles. Mr. Barnjum is wholly wrong in thinking Canadians do not want conservation, and he is wrong in thinking the government in this matter is derelict or indifferent. The simple fact is that at this day the government and a majority of the people think Mr. Barnjum is too headlong in the application of his theories; and that is the case. As a prophet of disaster he has overdone it. If he should remain in Canada he will see his predictions refuted by events. Of Mr. Barnjum, it may be said, in the slang of an earlier day, "He means well, but he slops over."

POLICIES AFFECTING CANADA

Britain is shy of food taxes. Mr. Baldwin, leader of the Conservatives, has made it clear that while he favors protection and a policy of preferences, he would not propose, in any circumstances, to tax wheat, flour, oats, meat, cheese, butter or eggs. Canada, in selling these products in the British market, must in future, as in the past, meet all competitors on even terms. No British party proposes to give us any advantage which we do not now enjoy in the sale of these articles. With them definitely excluded from any proposed "tariff reform" scheme, the benefit to our trade would look rather slim.

But that we may be very directly affected by changing political policies in Britain is decidedly clear from an examination of the platform of all three parties, but those of the Conservatives and Labor particularly. It is surprising to learn, for example, that Mr. Baldwin has endorsed the principle of "state organization in the purchase and sale of foodstuffs." The Labor party would nationalize the import trade in food supplies, introducing a patent much like that followed during the war. As an emergency measure it is accepted without much dissent, but at Canada might be sharply affected, any such plan were made permanent easily seen. The Toronto Globe, in explaining the nature and scope of this proposal, says:

"This proposal to revive State control is not a sudden one; it has been urged for months by the organs of the Independent Labor party, and has been approved by that party's Agricultural committee. There would be a fixed fee for wheat, based on several factors, including the economic position of the fish growers and the average values of preceding years. Home supplies sold first be absorbed by the home market, after which overseas foodstuffs would be admitted, the Dominion and colonies being given preference over foreign countries. Estimates of the volume of imported wheat referred would be made annually by ports, and contracts would be made accordingly. Such is the offer which the British Labor party makes to the Dominion fish farmers in lieu of the bonus every acre of tilled land proposed by the Baldwin Government last year. Advocates contend that a stabilized price, which would enable the British growers to estimate profits and plan for the future, would arrest the decline of fish agriculture and put new demands on the public. Values would be depressed in years of plenty and increased in years of scarcity. The market, thus disorganizing British production, while in seasons of scarcity farmers would be protected against

trying to keep his patients in health and of knowing where to send them in case of accident or illness. This, of course, will require a change in the people also, for they must come to think of keeping their physical and mental machines in order, instead of awaiting break-down and blow-outs and then making belated and expensive repairs."

His Worship the Mayor is quoted as saying "It looks as though the vocational school would be erected in spite of the expressed will of the members of the Council, the duly elected representatives of the people." The Mayor overlooks, or ignores, the fact that the people who elected him and the commissioners did something more. They—a majority of them—voted to build the vocational school. Here was the mandate direct—old and reliable Vox Populi. Does His Worship, by any chance, believe that he is greater than the aforesaid V. P.? We trust not. To ask the people what they want and then refuse to give it to them is a perilous form of political activity. Also, St. John needs that school.

Press Comment

THE CHILDREN'S COURT. (New York Times.) It was twenty-two years ago this month that the first children's court was established in the bounds of Greater New York. But these early courts were not the courts we know today. They were little more than separate rooms or buildings, in which the cases of children could be heard apart from those of hardened criminals. Later on, what is called "a real Children's Court" was instituted in the entire city and given the exclusive duty of caring for the neglected child and giving attention to the correction of the delinquent child. Even this improved provision left the child in the category of the criminal. The amendment of the constitution of the state now makes it possible for the court to treat the cases of children as civil instead of criminal actions. It is incumbent upon the court so to treat them. Each case must be "enforced" in the child's interest. The court may appoint guardians and grant orders for adoption. Parents may be tried for delinquencies and orders enforced for the support of children, whether relatives or others interested in their care.

It is a notable achievement and to no man is more credit due for this great reform in the interest of children and the home than Justice Franklin Chase Hoyt, who when a Justice in the Court of Special Sessions became interested in the case of children brought before the court as criminals, and had an influential part in the organization of the "real Children's Court" in 1912. His name will be forever associated with this particular court. He was appointed the first presiding justice and has been in continuing service since that time. The Mayor of the city, to his great credit, has reappointed Mr. Hoyt, a Republican, presiding justice of the court as recognized for a period of ten years. Four of his colleagues have also been reappointed. Altogether it is one of the fairest cases in the history of New York City. And one gratifying sequence is that similar courts are being established in other countries of the state.

WEMBLEY'S FUTURE

(Daily Express, London.) We are all in favor of Wembley as a permanent Empire Exhibition, but if the Dominion will not accept the use of continuing it? The exhibition has so far served a valuable purpose in showing the world for the first time what the British Empire really is. It has been a wonderful object-lesson, an educator that could not have been equalled short of personal contact by visits to each and every Dominion and dependency, and its results come. Many a future resident of Australia, Africa, and Canada will have experienced the beginning of enthusiasm and ambition to go out into the world from a first visit to Wembley. The exhibition has done its work well, and in spite of Mr. H. G. Wells' railing gibes, we are all proud of the picture of Empire that has thus been presented.

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SAY COOLIDGE WILL BE VICTOR

Observers Predict Re-election as President—Situation is Discussed.

Washington, Oct. 20.—(By Canadian Press.)—With but a short time left until the election, President Coolidge is apparently destined to be chosen at the polls on November 4 by his own successor. Outwardly, his opponents have not made such progress lately as to insure them enough electoral votes to block his selection. The view of most observers here continues to be, as it has been for some days, that the President will win.

Administration leaders are freely predicting that Coolidge will win by a heavy margin. When talking among themselves, however, they present a considerably different view of it. Their private opinion is that Coolidge will win, but the situation here continues to be, as it has been from the outset, something which cannot be judged with any great accuracy. Senator La Follette insist that Coolidge will carry each one of the states named. This may prove to be true, but it is also true conditions in those states are complicated and uncertain. It is conceivable that La Follette might capture all the states named, in addition to Wisconsin and North Dakota. In that event, the election might go to the House unless Davis, Democratic nominee, proved very weak. Much depends on how successful La Follette is in making votes on his present tour.

Democratic leaders insist Davis will get at least 200 out of 381 electoral votes, that La Follette will get 70 or more and that the election will thus be thrown into the House. Some of the more enthusiastic Davis men say he will get enough eastern support to elect him. His election now seems almost out of the question, however. The figure of 200, as viewed by impartial observers here, is too high, and La Follette today has less than an even chance of realizing 70. In other words, the proverbial luck of Coolidge apparently is going to stay with him for a time at least, and the betting is more than even that he will get 200 or more electoral votes, which will insure his election.

High Tariff Against Davis. High tariff interests are calling for the defeat of Davis, the Democratic presidential candidate, for the reason, among others, that if he were elected President he would make use of the flexible tariff provisions in the existing law to lower tariff rates. In the same manner, they are arguing that La Follette should be beaten. They take the position that only with Coolidge or some high tariff man in the White House are the high tariff rates safe from attack. This, in fact, is an admission that the

October Chant. (Kathryn Worth in New York Times.) Spring's a slim green lady Fathered in the town, Autumn is a farmer's lassie With her hair down! Scarlet is her homespun, Bare her brown young feet, And her lips are stained with berries Red as bitter-sweet.

She has golden eyes to lure you, Sleepy, slow and warm, And her brier-tattered jacket Bares a white soft arm. Blue smoke from the leaf fires Dims the frosty air— If you crush her close and kiss her She will never care. She's no prim and proper Lady of the town, Autumn is a farmer's lassie With her hair down! IN LIGHTER VEIN A Waste of Provender. Brown—"I guess I gave that ignorant some food for thought just now." Black—"Little use, I'm afraid; his brain is on a perpetual fast."—Boston Transcript. Bobby's Bad Break. Kloeeman (out calling)—"Why do you look at me so intently, little man?" Bobby—"I was looking to see if you were black." Kloeeman—"Black? Why should you think I was black?" Bobby—"Cause I heard pa say you were awful niggardy."

HORSE DESTROYED. On Saturday afternoon, at the request of Mrs. A. Albert, of 302 Guilford street, West St. John, Police Sergeant O'Neill shot a horse in a barn, the animal being unfit for use.

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flexible tariff features of the existing tariff law are being used to bolster up high tariff rates. This, of course, is directly contrary to the theory of the law when it was passed. It was then argued that by use of the flexible tariff the public could be given such relief as was justified from rates which were shown to be unduly high. The high tariff men fear that if Davis were made President he would proceed to apply the flexible tariff in the way the public wants it applied and the way the Congress originally intended it should be applied. That is one of the chief reasons for the strength of the opposition to Davis. It is recognized that Davis is a low tariff man and that he would, if elected, lose no opportunity of pressing his views.

Letters To The Editor A STATEMENT BY THE N. B. POWER CO. To the Editor of The Times-Star: Sir,—The report of the Board of Public Utilities on the question of gas rates which appeared in your issue of October 16 contains a statement which is incorrect and liable to seriously injure this company in the minds of the people. The part of this report to which we refer is as follows: "A minute's calculation will show that this discrimination, just or unjust, is a discrimination not of 15 per cent. against the other users but an actual discrimination of over 17 1/2 per cent. since under the new schedule the gas

customers of the company who purchase their electricity from a rival company, or do not have electric light at all must pay over seventeen and one-half per cent. more for their gas than the users of the combined service." The dual service discount offered by this company was a reduction from \$2.25 to \$2.10 per 1,000 ft. of gas, which is a reduction of 15 cents per 1,000 ft. or 6.2-3 per cent., and not over 17 1/2 per cent. as stated in the report of the Board of Public Utilities. We felt that this was a just discrimination and one which the users of our combined service were fairly entitled to. The statements which have been issued by this company since April, 1923, when the Federal Light & Traction Co. of New York acquired control, have been to the effect that its dealings with the public company would always be fair, and it is the intention of the present Board of Directors to carry out this policy. At a recent conference the local directors of the Power Company with the directors of the Federal Light & Traction Company in New York, the acts of the local board and its recommendations as to the future policy of the company were unanimously endorsed by the directors of the Federal Company. Yours very truly, NEW BRUNSWICK POWER COMPANY. M. A. FOOLER, General Manager. St. John, Oct. 18, 1924.

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