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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1920.

WHERE IS MR. KING?

Having deliberately forced an election upon this constituency, it would seem to most people that the least that the Hon. Mackenzie King could do would be to come down here and do something to help the man who has been elected to be made the goal for him. Mr. King, however, has taken good care to be otherwise engaged. He has been busy, and unless he suddenly changes his plans, St. John's elect will see him not during the campaign.

As a specimen of the genus quitter, Mr. King is in a class by himself. All through the war, when other men of his age were either serving their country overseas, or in some other equally necessary capacity at home, Mr. King was busy engaged in a foreign country piling up dollars for his own benefit. He had no stomach for any fight, no matter how serious the need for it was, so he got under cover and stayed there until all danger was passed. He is pursuing the same kind of tactics now. He is quite willing to look on from a distance, and see his deputy face the music, but nary a hand will be lent to help him in his difficulty. He will probably send a telegram one of these days bidding his friend to be of good cheer, for he's with him in spirit.

Dr. Emery must be highly gratified, too, at the very enthusiastic support he is getting from the newspapers of the city which ordinarily approve of Mr. King's achievements and policies. They appear to have nothing to say, and they are saying it very nicely. Their attitude towards his candidacy will doubtless be of immense assistance to him during the campaign.

Citizens are, we find, beginning to look forward to the opening of Dr. Emery's campaign with considerable interest. They are anxious to know what he will have to say to justify his candidature, and more particularly how he would go to work to get anything from a government he would be elected to oppose, if he should manage to win the seat. St. John wants a good many things from the Government just at present, and before her citizens send Dr. Emery to Ottawa as their representative, they want some information as to how, and by what means, he will get these things for her. Unless he can get them, it will not be the least use to send him there. Mr. Wigmore can get them, and the people know it, and that he will get them they also know equally well. For that reason they will see to it that Dr. Emery remains quietly at home.

A LARGE DOMINION REVENUE.

Estimates from Ottawa predict that the luxury and sales taxes will add sufficient to the Dominion revenue to give an income of \$600,000,000. This sum would undoubtedly be sufficient to meet all needs of Government for 1920-21, and perhaps leave a surplus for debt reduction. The promise of the Finance Minister, later reaffirmed by Premier Meighen, that the Government intends to pay its way, is in a fair way of fulfillment. The Prime Minister declared, in his speech at Stirling that part of his Government's policy is to wipe out any tax that is not absolutely necessary, and it may be that if the sales and luxury taxes are so productive, some amelioration may be allowed in other taxes.

The main thing at present, says the Mailand Empire, is that the Canadian people shall pay their way, and, if possible, reduce the debt. Business is showing contraction in some lines, but remains good as a whole, and the fine crops will support the business fabric. Few countries can show so remarkably prosperous a condition as Canada. Compared with standards of several years ago, we are heavily taxed, but our resources have expanded in proportion. Canada has to put a check on extravagance, industrially and financially, lest unsafe conditions be created, and a basis laid for severe reaction. Such reaction may be avoided if we generally pursue a sane policy. In the United States and Britain economists are agnost at the greatly enlarged scale of Government expenditures, a scale that threatens to become permanent. When Government officials get the habit of spending millions where previously they spent only hundreds of thousands, the tendency to extravagance naturally increases. A Government is not different from an individual in money-spending habits. The Meighen Ministry is the inheritor of vast annual obligations, such as the National railway debt, pensions payments, etc., and no matter how economically disposed, it might be, it could not reduce these. As Premier Meighen pointed out to the Nova Scotia farmers recently, in all the vast business of spending millions during the war

period, the Government escaped without a single challenge regarding the manner of their spending. The business of the country has been well managed, and the Government is sincerely anxious to reduce expenditures when and where possible.

A Dominion revenue ample enough to cover expenditures this year may be open to reduction next year, when war expenditures should be less. But it would be good financial policy to adopt the British method of utilizing the period of high prices to get in sums to be devoted to debt reduction. Unless we keep pace with other nations in this, our present advantage of a smaller debt, per capita, may disappear, especially if imports continue to exceed our exports.

RUSSIA CLIMBING DOWN?

The incidents of the last week or two rather indicate that Soviet Russia has begun to climb down—as the result, however, not of argument and remonstrance, but of force applied to it on the battlefield. In the reply to his sent to the joint message of Great Britain and Italy from Lucerne, Moscow offers, as a "concession" in the interests of peace, to withdraw from the Russian terms of peace the "civic militia" proposal, which, it is still contended, was of itself of the nature of a "concession to Poland." The assumption is made by the Soviet Government, and is repeated by M. Kameneff in transmitting the message to Mr. Balfour, that all difficulties have thereby been cleared away, and now there remains "no obstacle to the resumption of negotiations for the establishment of normal commercial and political relations between Russia and Great Britain." From being dilatory and evasive, the Russian diplomatists have suddenly shown a disposition for haste, and, among other things, haste in jumping to conclusions. There can be no doubt that the desire thus revealed to hurry on peace is due to the change in the military situation. But the facts of the political situation have also altered materially since Russia chose to reject the Allied proposal for a truce during negotiations; and Moscow can not really expect that it can pick up the thread of discussion exactly where it was broken off. Nor are the facts stated with even approximate accuracy in the Soviet reply. That is a document remarkable for its transparent casuistry and for an assumption of ignorance and incapacity to reason on the part of those who read it, which creates the conviction that it is prepared for the perusal, not of the British Government, but of the British Labor party. Moscow is "astonished" that British indignation should have been aroused over a proposal to "strengthen the fundamental pillar of peace" represented by the Polish workers, and draws from this the conclusion that the British Government regards the class of workers with distrust, as "by nature animated with the doctrines of Bolshevism." But by removing out of the way this "only point of divergence"—a more "misunderstanding"—it takes for granted that there will be no delay in establishing normal relations between Russia and Great Britain which will assure the peace of the world.

LOWER PRICES FOR SUGAR.

The drop in refiners' price of sugar in New York to 15 cents indicates fairly well that the bottom is really out of the American sugar market. This great decline means that the Canadian refiners cannot long maintain the 22-cent price, at which they "stabilize" the price of sugar. According to trade statistics at Ottawa, during the four months ending on July 21, sugar imports amount to 384,960,000 pounds of raws, valued at \$37,435,000, or an average of 9.74 cents a pound. This was sugar bought after last December, apparently, as statistics to the end of March, 1920, show that 1,081,900,000 pounds were imported into Canada, at a valuation of \$68,343,000, or an average of 6.32 cents. Now if the sugar imported up to the end of July cost the refiners only 9.74 cents, how is it that the 22-cent price can be fixed on account of the high cost of recently brought sugar? The drop in sugar began early in August, and the refiners have probably not made new contracts on the high price basis since then. The trade figures show that about 7 cents a pound is allowed as the spread on the refiners' cost, the wholesale and retail charges, in moving sugar to the consumer. If the refiners bought at 10 cents, sugar should be retailed now at less than 20 cents. The exports show a value of about 17 cents a pound. If the American refinery costs of raw sugar are on a par with the Canadian, the 15-cent level in New York is no more than a generous selling basis. The officials of the Board of Commerce who went to Montreal and reported a de-

crease of two cents a pound should have been in a position to state to the public the quantities of raw and refined sugars on hand, their cost, and a fair selling price. The drop of two cents does not at all indicate what the real situation is.

In Maine, where there is a state election next Monday, the people are being told that Canada is to send an army to help Poland. The idea of the report is that it will turn the voters against the idea of the United States becoming a member of the League of Nations and being made liable for like costly and unprofitable enterprises. The people of the United States next November will give their judgment on the League of Nations issue, and will be effective. Judging by this Maine story, it may not be based on the best grounds.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Meighen Tariff Policy.

(Vancouver World.)
 Where the Meighen Government stands in relation to the tariff has been put tersely and squarely by the premier himself. The tariff will be maintained for revenue and it will fulfill a further function as well. In the Premier's own language, "the policy of the Government is to give Canadian industries of every kind just enough advantage in the Canadian market as to make it pay better to stay here and expand them to diminish their plants or leave."

This is a fairly good definition of what most people understand by a "scientific tariff." It is not a tariff designed to make fortunes for the capitalists, or to give them opportunities of collaring markets wherein the public must buy or go without. It is a tariff intended to produce revenue and at the same time to maintain industry against foreign competition which otherwise would strangle it. It is protection, of course, but it is "scientific" protection designed not for class benefit but for the general advantage. On much the same lines was Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's tariff reform policy for Great Britain conceived—with the addition of the Imperial preference element.

The Premier lays stress on a tariff effect will probably be seen in the investigation which the Borden Government uncovered but failed to carry out. If this investigation be directed towards suggesting changes in the tariff on the basis of the policy the Premier has outlined its results should prove outstandingly valuable. "To provide revenue, to safeguard industry," is not a bad tariff slogan.

A Profiteer's Punishment.

(Philadelphia Record.)
 We Americans pride ourselves upon our superior sense of humor, but France appears to have the advantage of us. In Paris they have recently employed that saving grace in the most practical of saving ways. Instead of putting profiteers in irons, they have brought them to bear upon them. A certain graffer, convicted of extortion, was fined 50,000 francs, and compelled, in addition, to publish at his own expense in all the Paris newspapers, three times a month for six months, the text of the judge's decision. The advertisements, presumably, are still running, and so French law accounts is the culprit. All Paris laughed him out of the city.

A BIT OF VERSE

Alfred Noyes.
 In the cool of the evening, when the low sweet whispers waken
 When the laborers turn them homeward, and the weary have their will,
 When the censers of the roses o'er the forest isles are shaken,
 Is it but the wind that cometh o'er the far green hill?
 For they say 'tis but the sunset winds that wander through the heather,
 Rustle all the meadow grass and bend the dewy fern;
 They say 'tis but the winds that bow the reeds to prayer together,
 And fill the shaken pods with fire along the shadowy burn.

In the beauty of the twilight, in the garden that he loveth,
 They have veiled his lovely vesture with the darkness of a name;
 Through His garden, through His garden, it is but the wind that moveth,
 No more! But O the miracle, the miracle is the same.
 In the cool of the evening, when the sky is an old story,
 Slowly dying, but remembered, aye, and loved with devotion still,
 Hush! the faintest of His garment in the fading golden glory
 Softly rustling as He cometh o'er the far green hill.

THE LAUGH LINE

Political Points.
 "And whom did you vote for, Miss Sophy?"

"Well, you see, the Republican was simply stunningly good-looking. But the Democrat had always been perfectly splendid to my family, so I marked both ballots, closed my eyes, shuffled them, put one in the box and tore up the other. Nothing could be fairer than that."—Life.

A Real Difference.
 "Mamma," asked seven-year-old Charles, who was studying his Bible lesson, "What is the difference between high church and low church?"

"I know," exclaimed his little five-year-old sister.
 "Well, what's the difference?" asked their mother.
 "One says 'Amen,' and the other says 'Amen,'" she replied.

Do It Well.
 "Friend Melby, I am pleased that thou hast got such a fine organ in thy church."
 "But," said the clergyman, "I thought you were strongly opposed to having an organ in a church?"
 "So I am," said Friend Oshafah, "but then if thou wilt worship the Lord by

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I went in the house this afternoon and some lady was in the parlor talking to ma, me thinking, Heck, company. And ma called me in, saying, Benny, this lady was your nurse when you were a little baby. You don't remember her, do you?

No mam, I sed. Wich I dident. Being a extar fat lady, say, tag. So this is deer little Benny, my sweet baby. And wat did she do but quick leen over and give me a farsee kiss rite in the face before I could dodge. Me wiping it off with my hand thinking Heck, darn it.

Well, well, my darling little baby, and how is the adorable little dimple rite in the middle of your back that I use to love to kiss? sed the fat lady.

Me jest standing there feeling shocked, and the fat lady sed, O, dont tell me it izent there any more?

I bleeve he still has it, sed ma, and the fat lady sed, O, I shall never die happy till I kiss that dimple once agen.

Wich I started to feel nerviss as anything, thinking, Heck, jimmyny crickets, good nite.

Well maybe Benny will be kind enuff to let you kiss it jest for old time sake, will you, Benny? sed ma.

No sir, no mam, I will not, no sir, wat you think I am, I should say not, G wizz, heck, I sed.

Benny, is that gentlemanly? sed ma.

Such an outbrake, sed the fat lady.

Well holey smokes, gosh, leed. And I went out agen quick so she wouldent get a chance to try to do it by force.

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