

PRIME MINISTER AND MEIGHEN CLASHED IN THE BUDGET DEBATE

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Minister of Agriculture went on to argue that a tariff with incidental protection was a protective tariff if it gave only 5 per cent or 3 per cent. The Government had received protection by placing an excise duty on goods made in Canada to offset duties. This was not incompatible with the principles of free trade. This budget was a start in the right direction.

Mr. Crerar, in his campaign speech, had said there was no intention of wiping out the tariff overnight. With the exception of the Prairie Provinces, Mr. Motherwell thought that Canada would have been satisfied had the Government made considerably fewer changes than in its present budget.

Mr. Motherwell turned to matters concerning the agriculture department and said that Canada was now spending \$500,000,000 per year for the extension and tuberculosis in cattle. He believed that the country was now ready for a forward movement in this regard and that co-operation to this end would be forthcoming.

Mr. Motherwell also believed that there was need of greater development in the matter of cold storage facilities. Canada was still behind the times in this respect.

Coming to the budget debate in the House this afternoon, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the official opposition, opened by congratulating Hon. W. S. Fielding on his lengthy service in Parliament, but could not congratulate him upon the budget. His speech, while an eloquent contribution to the debate, and his appropriate comments on trade and fiscal conditions, could be searched in vain for a useful analysis of the fiscal position of the nation.

It was true that the national debt was more than two billions of dollars, and that this debt was increased last year by \$50,000,000. It might also be true that one or two countries had succeeded in reducing their obligations since the war. If, it was true that Great Britain had reduced her debt, it was due to a different system of bookkeeping than that which was adopted in Canada.

Believe in Protection

Turning to discuss the fiscal question, Mr. Meighen said that his opinion on the matter was abundantly clear. He believed in complete fidelity to protection, applied in a moderate degree, and within limits which had held for in the previous session.

The Liberal policy on the tariff, too, was quite clear, expressed as it was in the tariff before the House. It was the policy which the country had pursued for forty years. No serious attack had been made on it during the present debate.

Mr. McMaster had been "a lone star" among the Liberals in arguing for lower tariff. He had discussed the policy of European countries, but had confined himself to small countries with no natural resources comparable with Canada.

The opposition leader declared that it was not quite unsafe for Canada to take down her bars against American competition. Canadian manufacturers could not construct their plants with the assurance of having a large market, while United States had in her own borders a population of 110,000,000. Canadian manufacturers could never compete on the performance of the American market.

Mr. Meighen favored a system of reciprocity treaty with countries which Canada could safely expect to get a real market for her surplus.

Mr. Meighen would not favor any extensive reciprocal arrangements with the United States. His decision as to when those arrangements should start, he said, would always rest with the United States and the mere threat of abrogation of the treaty would always place Canada in an undesirable position.

Doubt Crossed By U. S.

During the debate, the United States had accepted the offer to bind itself to put flour, meat and potatoes on the free list. The price of wheat immediately dropped on the Minneapolis market to the level of the Canadian market. But, leaving this aside, the agreement was in operation for only six months when the United States had put a duty of 20 per cent on wheat and 25 per cent on flour. They had done very much the same thing with potatoes. This was perhaps not very serious when restricted to a few articles, but if Canada had entered into a reciprocal agreement with the United States, had come to depend upon that market, and then had been deprived of it by the country to the South, it would have been a serious thing for the Dominion.

The amendment before the House specifically recited certain definite pledges of the Liberal party. He did not agree with these pledges, but the fact remained that the Liberals had made them for the purpose of getting votes. They clearly failed that the Liberal party if returned to power

Married

DEVER-WATTERS—On June 5, 1922, in Boston, Mass., at St. Mary's church, by Rev. C. F. Arnold, James B. Dever, to Gladys M. Watters, both of St. John.

Died

STRINGER—On June 4th, 1922, at 145 German street, Mrs. Elizabeth Stringer, mother of Mrs. L. Spangler.

My funeral service in St. John : MCGARTY—Passed away peacefully at her residence, 67 Woodlawn avenue, Toronto, on June 5, 1922. Emma Cardy, daughter of the late Henry and Miss Maxwell and deceased wife of Richard Whitehead McCarty.

Funeral from St. John station on afternoon of next week. Thursday, June

would place seventeen classes of articles on the free list.

"Can we not comprehend the main constituent of a man who looks upon a specific pledge of this kind as a chart?" asked Mr. Meighen. He added that ten of the articles were on the free list at the time the pledge was made. Seven were dutiable.

"Now the Liberals are in power and have brought down a budget and seven of the articles are free and ten dutiable."

Another pledge provided for the adoption of 50 per cent British preference, instead of implementing this pledge, the Finance Minister brought in a microscopic increase of 5% per cent on certain articles. The Finance Minister was asked if the pledges made at the 1919 convention.

Mr. Fielding immediately rose and said that he had never voted for the tariff resolutions of the 1919 convention and never supported them.

Mr. Meighen retorted that this was the first time the Minister had informed the country of the fact.

The Minister, however, said it was the first time it had been announced that he was a party to it, and he was anxious to correct the statement.

The Opposition leader then said that the Minister of Finance should have made his position very clear and definite. Perhaps there were other members of the government who considered that they were not parties to the resolutions passed at the convention. Perhaps the Prime Minister thought he was not party to it, and also the Minister of Justice.

Used Subterfuge.

They had adopted the Liberal platform to get the vote. They had preached it to get the vote. They had secured the election. They had taken the people into camp.

"Any day by just right, or are they there by usurpation," Mr.

Mr. King—"By the will of the people."

Mr. Meighen—"By the will of a deceived people and of a deceived minority at that."

"The old tariff," said Mr. Meighen, "was for monopolies and trusts and this is anti-trust and consumers and consumers." (Conservative laughter.)

"What has been done substantially to reduce the duty on foods? To reduce at all or even a fraction?" he pursued.

The budget had not reduced the duties on bread, meat, flour or fruit; not a fraction.

But I want to say that the budget did reduce the duties on coal and liquid medicine," Mr. Meighen said. "We have roomed with laughter."

"Will any honorable gentleman tell me what has been made substantially to reduce the duty on foods?" he pursued.

The only article made free are porcelain parts of pumice, but it is doubtful if it ever comes in a pump," he answered himself.

"What is to be done?" Mr. Meighen questioned. Some one had suggested that it would be safe to let it go because to declare against it would be to argue against it.

Was the practice to go unrebuked?

Mr. Meighen said Mr. Crerar was, to a great degree, responsible for the attitude of the Government. He had virtually held out an invitation to the Government to abandon its pledges, when he had sanctioned the Government discarding its plank with regard to bonuses to soldiers.

Mr. Crerar objected that Mr. Meighen was not giving a proper interpretation of the speech. Mr. Meighen responded by quoting Mr. Crerar's speech on that occasion to the effect that Mr. Crerar could not support the Conservative amendment. With regard to the amendment to the budget Mr. Meighen continued: "The Progressive leader says he won't vote for my amendment because he says the Liberals failed utterly, but he was willing to let Mr. Stevens find it. Mr. Stevens received the booklet and read that the preferential tariff between the British Commonwealths should be maintained and extended from time to time as found practicable.

Mr. King—"That is a different thing."

Continuing the Prime Minister declared that in the speech from the Throne last year there was a pledge to revise the tariff.

Mr. Meighen—"Hear, hear."

Mr. King—"Do you think the time will still come?"

Mr. Meighen—"It will come."

Mr. Meighen added that there were several reasons for not carrying out the revision at the time.

"Then just why does my honorable friend not object to our not putting our whole platform into effect right away?"

Mr. Meighen—"Because you promised to do it when returned to power."

"The Government only going to stay in power one year!" retorted Mr. King.

The Prime Minister declared that Mr. Meighen knew as well as he did that when he was elected leader of the party he did not expect to be called to the Ministry.

Mr. Meighen—"I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister's reply was that he had no objection to his being called to the Ministry.

Mr. Meighen criticized the member for Brantford, for accepting the budget which provided for a decrease in the duties on agricultural imports.

Mr. Raymond had protested during the election campaign that this branch of industry must be protected. Further, he was pledged to higher duties on sugar and molasses. Had there ever been a Government in the history of Canada whose position was rendered so impossible through the indifference of its members and supporters?

One thing was certain, the people had got rid of a bad theory which was not good for anyone.

The next duty was to get rid of those who deceived the people and violated every principle of parliamentary responsibility to pledges.

Mr. Meighen took up battle.

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"Let us come to the recent campaign itself," said the Prime Minister.

Mr. Meighen had not been able to speak during the campaign which was in variance with the Liberal platform.

"My statements," added Mr. King, "did not differ from one province to another, or from one town to another."

Mr. Meighen—" Didn't they differ?"

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