

Why Should We Scuttle The National Policy?

The good book tells us to examine all things and to hold fast to that which is good. Well, let us examine—all things.

On the one hand we have the plitudinous piffle of Mr. King mingling with the exhortations of Mr. Crerar who wants us to tamper with the nation's industrial mechanism. On the other hand, we have the crisp exposition of policy as enunciated by Premier Meighen.

It is impossible to examine the proposals of Mr. King. He has made no proposals. He simply says "Take a peep through my political kaleidoscope and pick your favorite color."

Mr. Crerar is quite definite. He says, "Abandon your old beliefs, throw the chart of National progress overboard, and embark with me upon an experimental adventure in the opposite direction." Premier Meighen says:—"I shall fight . . . for policies which have brought us where we stand."

And where do we stand? How have we fared along the road Premier Meighen would have us hold to? Let us examine the record:

In 1879 our total trade was \$149,489,188. In 1921 it stood at \$2,405,587,001.

We harvested 32,350,269 bushels of wheat in 1880. The yield in 1920 was 263,189,300 bushels.

In less than a decade the value of our agricultural production multiplied more than five times. In 1900 it was \$364,906,866. The figures for 1919 are \$1,975,841,000.

Our forests added \$39,540,570 to the national wealth in 1881. In 1919 the value of all log products was \$221,648,790.

We extracted only \$14,013,113 worth

of minerals during 1889. The value of our mineral production in 1920 was \$217,775,080.

For the year 1881 the total production of our manufacturing industries was valued at \$309,676,068. In 1918 the total values were \$3,458,036,975. In the years between a corresponding and splendid growth was recorded annually in the amount of capital invested and work-men employed.

Do these figures reflect any reason for such a revolution as Mr. Crerar would impose upon us? They represent a splendid record of National growth—under the beneficial influence of the National Policy.

Co-related with the above are certain financial statistics which are also interesting. For instance:— The paid-up capital and reserve of Canadian chartered banks in 1888 was \$79,218,565. These had grown to \$264,032,584 in 1921.

The total bank deposits by the public of Canada were \$71,900,195 in 1878 and the same index of national thrift and prosperity stood at \$1,865,953,808 on April 30th, 1921.

The amount of fire insurance policies in force is another significant indicator of industrial development. In 1878 the total amount was \$409,899,701. In 1919 fire insurance policies in force amounted to \$5,927,967,358.

Unfortunately, the idle mind flees from statistics as nimbly as the wobbling politicians side-step real issues. It is an exercise in patriotism to peruse the records and perceive the lesson. In this case the lesson is obvious to the clear-thinking citizen. The record is one of national growth. The figures vindicate the policy. It is no time for change.

The Biter Bit

We do not know who is responsible for the party strategy of the Quebec Liberals, but it must be a person of short-sighted views. The withdrawal of that party from Medicine Hat can only mean that the platform of the Wood-U.F.O. Group is the new and acceptable political pronouncement of the King-Lapointe aggregation. Else why did they tacitly endorse it? What is that platform? None other than this, that only bona fide actual tillers of the soil and their selfish interests are to be considered. So the detestable mandate of Wood of Missouri runs. Crerar would fain broaden out and form a National Progressive party, as the bewildered Drury would broaden out in Ontario, but the Wood zealots would have none of it and Wood has won. He has apparently dished both Crerar and King. The humiliation of these two political conspirators is complete. They were forced to surrender to the narrowest dreariest political gospel ever preached in Canada. All Mackenzie King's fawning approaches have been rejected with scorn. He thought that, with Crerar's connivance, he could coddle the Northwest farmer vote. The sequel has proved that the shrewd Missourian, well versed in American machine politics, is the craftier man. By refusing to put up a straight Laurier Liberal in an old-time Liberal constituency, King was forced to endorse Agrarian dominance, absolute Free Trade, Sectionalism and naked class selfishness. It was a confession that the Quebec Liberals are bankrupt of principles and ready to go into the hands of the receivers. There are only three parties left—the Free Trade farmers, Quebec, and the National Party headed by Mr. Meighen, which stands for the Empire, Constitutional Government and adequate Protection. King and his Group proposed to swallow the farmer movement. They themselves have been devoured, and, after the next election, will virtually cease to exist. The sword of Damocles has fallen.

A Policy of National Suicide

Those short-sighted farmers who are enamored at the prospect of the few dollars they will be able to save on what they may purchase under Free Trade had better seriously consider what they are bound to lose on their sales should that suicidal policy ever go into effect. It is estimated that 85% of all that the Eastern farmers raise is sold for cash at good prices in our towns and cities, the most of the surplus going to the United States. The United States market is now "banged, barred and bolted" in our faces. Not a single thing that the Canadian farmer raises is exempt from a heavy, indeed, a prohibitive Customs tax under the new Tariff. Where are our farmers to dispose of their surplus? Abroad? That remains to be seen. Europe, on account of the ruinous rate of exchange, will buy as little as possible and as cheaply as possible. Europe, indeed, aims to be self-sufficient and people abroad are working the land as never before. According to the International Bureau of Agriculture at Rome, there are sufficient stocks of grain on

hand at present in Europe to carry the European peoples till the next harvest (which promises to be good) is reaped, and leave 6½ millions quarters of a surplus. Surely, under these circumstances, common-sense and self-interest should cause our wild Free Traders to pause in their mad career. Free Trade, or a near approach to Free Trade, would destroy our towns and cities, and, of course, at one blow, destroy the farmer's principal market. The cities would go down; but the farms would go down with them and we should all be involved in a common ruin. Furthermore, Free Trade in food stuffs (the principal plank of the Laurier Liberal party) would result in the United States dumping their surplus stocks of farm produce on Canada to the great detriment of Canadian agriculture. Our markets would be open to them; theirs would be closed to us. It is time for the farmers to wake up and grasp the fact that their very solvency depends upon prosperous local markets that will take all they can raise and pay cash for it. The policy of Crerar, Wood, Drury is a policy of national suicide.

Alternatives

Those who are crying out for a change would be well-advised to consider alternatives. Mere change is not necessarily a good thing. It may be a very bad and disastrous thing. To howl for change just for the sake of change is the mood of which Bolshevism is born. Steadfast men always leave well enough alone. Sydney Smith counsels "In times of doubt take short views." It was and is good advice; especially in times like these when the whole world is living from hand to mouth. What are the alternatives to the present truly Coalition Government? Is there any possibility of betterment through the defeat of the National Liberal and Conservative Party? Would a government made up of discordant and mutually jealous groups under the nominal leadership of the Hon. Mackenzie King with Quebec, because of its racial and religious homogeneity, in control, make for peace and settled order? Who in his senses believes it? It would create discord and suspicion at once. Would the domination of the Free-trade, farmer group under the domination of Crerar, and J. J. Morrison and Drury, make for financial stability? It would plunge the whole business world into despair. It would mean that the United Grain Growers Association and the U.F.O. and U.F.A. purely selfish, sectional and class organizations would control the country and through the inauguration of Free-trade ruin it. The simple truth is the National Liberal and Conservative Party is the only solid, sensible, patriotic group in Canada at this hour. Those who are howling for a change would be well-advised to consider alternatives. The times are too perilous to go it blind. When the ship is among the reefs and the capes yet to be weathered ere a safe harbor be reached is no time to exchange pilots. Sensible men do not try new experiments in seamanship at the height of the gale; they trust the captain, throw out sea-anchors, reef down and sail close-hauled into the eye of the wind.

Political Rabies

With the absence of the Premier and the advent of hot weather, we may expect an outbreak of political rabies. The all-but moribund Globe and The London Advertiser are beginning to show the well understood symptoms. Any appeal, however reasonable, to the sensible patriotic men and women of the country to sink trivial and meaningless differences and pull together for the good of our common Country seems to infuriate these Bourbon Organs. The virus of inherited partisan bitterness seems to have entered into their very blood. The latest outbreak of the Globe was called forth by a temperately worded article in The Mail and Empire calling upon the thoughtful men of the country to line up behind the National Government and keep constitutional practices in active life. The Globe admits that the opposition forces are woefully divided and not likely to come together; but such is its insane hatred of the present Government that it is quite prepared to go it blind in the hope that, by some miracle, it and its ragged army may gain power. The character and nature of the future combination it cannot foresee or forecast. But what of that? Is it to be Crerar and the farmer-group with free-trade nailed to the mast-head? Very well, let's try Crerar and Free-trade. What are the vast manufacturing, commercial and banking interests of Canada compared with the jig of tryin out a new experiment?

The curious thing is that the Globe sedulously refrains from the job of picking a leader. It has not one kind word to say for the Hon. MacKenzie King or the Hon. Alex. Crerar, and it has exasperated and infuriated the leaders of the U.F.O., who, to their credit, will have none of its alliance. It is quite prepared to ridicule the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen and insult him in grotesque cartoons, but it has no one in sight to lead its Falstaffian army. If it dared, it would boom Mackenzie King tomorrow and swallow the wild utterings of Yamaska; but it does not dare. The "Amen" sticks in its throat. All it represents is chagrin, bitterness and a reckless disregard, not only of the amenities of civilized life, but the demands of a noble patriotism. It would plunge the country into ruin to gratify its personal spleen. The destiny of Canada is not at its disposal. Its sing-song of wail has become tiresome. It has become unconsciously the lurid battle-ground against which the clear-cut personality of the Prime Minister shines with ever-increasing radiance. When the Premier returns to Canada laden with honors, he will dominate the situation, and the Globe cannot prevent it.

Stand Together, the End is Not Yet

Prime Minister Meighen and his colleagues, Conservative and Liberal, with full inside knowledge of the conditions of the country, say to the people: The National situation is a serious one, almost as serious as it was during the war. The dreadful carnage has left us with a staggering load of debt and consequent taxation to pay interest charges, pensions and to take care of the returned soldiers. Financial conditions throughout the world are terribly upset. World trading relations are seriously disturbed and their future course quite incapable of being predicted; the currencies of all countries are inflated; nearly all important nations are overpowered with war debts. Europe and Great Britain are in a ferment of unrest and the North American Continent is by no means untainted with it. No one can foretell with any degree of accuracy what will happen in financial and trading circles. Although Canada has come out of the war better than any country except the United States, yet, the load of taxation is a grievous one to bear.

In these circumstances, the Premier and his colleagues believe it to be imperative that the people should stand together just as they did during the war in order that we may work out our salvation to the best advantage. They believe, as they did in 1917, that it would be fatal to play the game of party politics. They consider that the best thought of which the best of us is capable is necessary to the correct solution of the manifold national problems. They think it not only silly but fatuous to be fighting one another, class against class, instead of pulling together. They see clearly that cautious, sane, firm handling of the nation's affairs is absolutely necessary. On the other hand they recognize that group government formed of classes with conflicting ideas would surely lead to chaos if not disaster.

A Tip for "Red Michael"

We suggest that Dr. Michael Clark and Mr. Ernest LaPointe debate on the public platform the question as to whether there should be a customs duty on boots and shoes. The discussion would be instructive. The Doctor advocates free trade in these articles, while Mr. LaPointe, who represents a constituency where boots and shoes are made on a large scale, dare not risk his political skin by advocating the removal of the existing protection to the industry.

Duty on Implements Averages Seven Per Cent.

When we read reports of the wild speeches made from time to time about how the poor farmer is fleeced to maintain the "bloated" manufacturer; we often wonder at the audacity of the speakers and the credulity of people who believe them implicitly. A dose of fact is the best antidote to political fiction. We therefore submit an authentic statement compiled by the Customs Department, showing the average customs duty collected on agricultural implements is only 7 per cent.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE IMPORTATIONS ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION IN CANADA OF THE UNDERMENTIONED AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINES, ALSO THE CUSTOMS DUTIES COLLECTED THEREON, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st, 1920.

Article.	Unit of Rate of Quan- Value Duty	of Rate of Quan- Value Duty	of Rate of Quan- Value Duty
	of Rate of Quan- Value Duty	of Rate of Quan- Value Duty	of Rate of Quan- Value Duty
Cultivators and Weeders, and parts of	15%	78,432	\$ 12,849.80
Machines, Traction ditching (not being ploughs) adapted for tile drainage on farms, valued by retail at not more than \$3,000 each, and parts thereof for repairs	No. Free	17	79,667
Drills, seed	" 15%	4,083	233,459
Portable engines with boilers in combination, for farm purposes	\$ 17½%	987	173.28
Traction Engines, gas or gasoline, for farm purposes, valued at not more than \$1,400 in the country of production	No. Free	6,797	5,916,926
Traction Engines, for farm purposes, n.o.p.	17½%	422	1,281,853
Harrows and parts of	\$ 15%	255,388	42,091.65
Harvesters, self binding	No. 12½%	1,661	316,657
Hay loaders	" 20%	14	1,533
Hay Tedders	" 20%	97	5,501
Horse Rakes	" 15%	814	30,296
Knives, hay or straw	" Pref. 15% Gen. 22½%	1,892	1,634
Manure Spreaders	" 15%	114	13,612
Mowing machines	" 12½%	848	54,463
Ploughs and parts of	\$ 17½%	1,795,598	325,076.00
Potato diggers	No. 20%	698	53,015
Reapers	" 12½%	121	10,946
Rollers—Farm, road or field	" 20%	119	39,260
Scythes	Doz. Pref. 15% Gen. 22½%	411	5,168
Sickles or reaping hooks	" Pref. 15% Gen. 22½%	532	996
			\$10,175,391
			\$725,449.24

Average rate of duty, 7.12%.

Some wag alludes to the Farmers' Party as the Robin Hood party, because it believes in taking it from everybody else.

Somebody suggests that the Precocious Prairie Progressive Party call itself the Gopher Party because it seems to go for all the other parties in the country.

Science tells us that mosquitoes live only a day. This helps to make the National Progressive Party tolerable.

In these days of seidlitz powders that fail to foam, Leader King naturally does not feel as lonesome as he might.

U. F. definition of a city man:— A boob who has to pay three prices and then only has half a vote.

Toronto Globe says it's hard to love a mosquito. The dear old Globe finds it hard to love anybody these days—but itself.

Something exploded in the sky near Saskatoon. Some say a meteor, others a plank warping in the Grain Growers' platform.

Writer in the Montreal Standard compares the Farmers' Party to the ancient Druids, because they meet in groves. They also announce their intention of applying the missile toe.

The Tariff Bill now going through the Congress at Washington is frankly a tariff for high protection. The title of the bill proclaims it to be for the purpose of encouraging American industries. Honorable Joseph Fordney, the Republican leader who originated the Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill, declares himself in favor of fringing into the United States nothing from the outside that can be produced in that country. The duty upon German dyes is increased 280 per cent. and the Tariff Commission is empowered to embargo altogether the importation of those dyes which can be produced in the United States.

Honorable MacKenzie King, Ernest Lapointe and other opponents of the Government who could see little to be gained by Premier Meighen attacking the Imperial Conference and wished to send him there hobbled and discredited by vote of Parliament, must be feeling rather sheepish as they read the news that comes from London and Washington. Mr. Meighen, instead of involving Canada in the vortex of European and Asiatic Militarism, has found a way to reduce armaments and clear up the threatening situation in the Far East. He has convinced the British and American Governments alike that a war between the United States and Japan, with its embarrassing consequences to Canada and the Empire, is not inevitable. In Washington he is generally credited with having originated the happy solution of the Far Eastern question with the coming conference of the Great Powers is likely to bring about.

At a time when the United States are building High Tariff walls against Canada, the Farmer and Liberal politicians of Canada advocate tearing down our Tariff walls. Could anything be more silly?

Getting all Protectionists Rural and Urban Together

The question which all sensible and patriotic Canadians are asking themselves at this time, not without apprehension, is: "How many of our stout yeomen have really gone over to the Free Trade Camp?" Nothing else matters much save the right answer to this question. We believe that if a fair poll were taken of the rural voters, it would be found that the vast majority of them are heartily in favor of the policy inaugurated by Sir John A. MacDonald, continued by Sir Wilfred Laurier and which is now the main plank of the National Party. A noisy minority can always put up a great appearance of strength; but noise is not conviction, and empty applause of wild unsupported statements not votes. When the big issue comes to be fought at the polls, there will be a clear line of division between the Free Trade and Lower Tariff advocates and those who are persuaded that Free Trade, or a dangerously lowered tariff, means financial bankruptcy and that in protection lies our safety and financial prosperity.

The "Fiery Cross" should be sent out to all Protectionists—rural and urban—Liberal and Conservative—Quebecer and Ontarian—Maritime Provincialism and British Columbianism to get together against the Agrarian Free Traders and save the Country. There must be no confusion. All minor issues must be jettisoned. Party prejudices must be discarded. Pride must be swallowed. The safety of the Country demands that all who are agreed on the main issue should stand shoulder to shoulder in the face of a common peril.