

The Time is Ripe for a Change in Brome

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Down in Washington the Department of Agriculture distributes free seeds. This is an activity our Minister has not emulated. Local congressmen on the border are fond of getting seeds to send to their constituents. The free seeds sent to a country cross roads farmer by the government of the United States is apt to raise the local member in the eyes of the farmer who benefits. This is a great trick, but the Minister or Secretary of Agriculture does not go up and down the land telling the farmers that he is the man who has done it all. The Secretary does not go out and shout that if the Democrats got in the free seeds would be cut off. The American farmer is too cute a chap to stand such guff. He would tell the Agricultural gentleman that the Democratic free seeds would be just as good as the Republican. The Secretary in Washington has more sense. He does his duties quietly and the country hears very little from him.

Over here, however, it is different. If a census of cows is to be made, the fact is heralded to the farmers who are supposed to take off their hats and cheer. If a particular cow gives a good flow of milk the farmers are supposed to consider if the direct result of the activities of the Department of Agriculture. It thistles grow in the back pasture and the Minister of Agriculture should gather the farmers together and tell them that the best way to get rid of the thistles is to pull them out the farmers are supposed to be surprised that they have such a practical man as their Minister of Agriculture. And if he should tell them that the large government grants are reserved for oil men and steel trusts and railroad magnates they are supposed to howl till they are purple for joy.

PROHIBITION might have cost Mr. Fisher Brome votes. Therefore he ceased to advocate it.

FARMERS AWAKING

The farmers are awaking to the fact that their Minister has neglected their needs. If it were words they were after they have had them in abundance. If it was cash they were after that has gone to bolster up the steel men. Although the farmers are the foundation of the country's wealth, they are turned down on all propositions for aid. We can just imagine how the G. T. P. people smile in their sleeves at the simplicity of the farmers as they pocket their bonuses and interest while the farmers pay for the bonus and a good stiff price for their plows.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, however, is not being listened to now, as he once was when he tries to persuade the farmers how much he has done for them. A half a million dollars is all the farmers can get from the Cabinet, to help them out and most of that goes to keeping a lot of clerks going at Ottawa whose chief duty is to keep the farmers lulled to sleep so they won't try to get any money out of the government.

We have heard that the government is paying part of the costs of a refrigerating car for the farmers. Five or ten dollars for a car is a beggarly amount when compared with the hundred and sixty thousand dollars one supporter of the government can make out of one deal. The Minister of Agriculture, while he may know how to make a pleasant speech to the farmers, does not know how to fight for their interests in the Cabinet meetings. If he does know how to fight he has wilfully gone back on his trust and has accepted a mess of pottage as the farmer's share of government grants.

FISHER AT WATERLOO

At the nomination of Mr. Henry E. Allen as Liberal Candidate for the county of Shefford, Mr. Sydney A. Fisher referred to the principles he himself had learned from L. S. Huntington. We fail to recognize any principles of steady

fast political activity which the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has ever learned from Mr. Huntington or from anyone else. Can the Minister of Agriculture point to any principle which he has consistently advocated? The temperance cause has been flagrantly betrayed by the Minister. The cause of Free Trade as they have it in England has disappeared from his political platform. He no longer preaches economy. The farmers are endeavoring to sum up what he has done for them and find that his opportunities for benefiting the farmer in his capacity as Minister of Agriculture have been shamefully neglected. The only principle or policy which he has steadfastly followed has been the policy of getting himself elected from Brome County.

The farmers of Brome County are no longer listening eagerly to his speeches. His address at Brome fair was an absolute frost and it is extremely doubtful whether the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will be again returned from Brome County, no matter how much of flagrant political corruption may be carried on in the behalf of his election by the Brome County Liberal machine.

C. P. R. AND THE STRIKE

The C. P. R. is undergoing a strike of a large number of its hands. The C. P. R. is in the wrong. The C. P. R. cannot import alien workmen consequently it sends to England for help and the help is arriving in large numbers to take the place of the strikers.

We have protected the manufacturer and the manufacturers combine to get all they can out of the lines of industry they carry on. Practically three concerns in the hardware business control the market and Canadians pay high prices for their goods. We have given millions to the C. P. R. till it has become a gigantic corporation that endeavors to dictate the laws of Canada. There is little competition in railway transportation and the C. P. R. charges just about what it likes, and makes a profit of fifty per cent. We have bonused and protected and assisted till Canada is in the grip of protected industries and bonused railroads which do not compete. The workingmen, on the other hand are supposed to compete in the open market for sale of their labor. They are supposed to sell their labor in a competing market and to buy their goods at monopolistic prices.

The C. P. R. laborers desire to have the right to protect themselves by mutual assistance. They want the right to combine together in order to maintain wages and to better their conditions. The haughty C. P. R. says, "No you cannot combine. We are going to treat with each of our workers separately." In other words, the C. P. R. is a monopolistic, bonused, unaccommodating corporation with a capital of three hundred millions back of it, wants to deal with men earning three hundred dollars a year and to deal with each separately. A man with nothing but two hands and hunger tugging at his stomach is considered to be a fit subject for a three hundred million dollar corporation to deal with. The C. P. R. does not want anybody else to have a hand in the bargain but wants the opportunity to hire such a man for two hundred dollars a year. The C. P. R. must recognize the union principle among its employees. Fifteen or twenty thousand people own the C. P. R. and these fifteen thousand people should not have the right to deal collectively with workingmen individually. It is unjust to the workers. Unless the C. P. R. calls off the strike by recognizing the right of the men to unite it will be put down in the minds of all decent thinking Canadians as a three hundred million dollar corporation with a thirty cent soul.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture is said to be a good farmer. He will probably be at Liberty to devote all his attention to the cultivation of his Alva property after the next Brome elections.

The only young Liberal of Brome county who is actively supporting the Candidature of Honourable Minister of Agriculture is Mr. H. S. Williams of Montreal. In some respects the Minister is like a hen with one chicken.

BONUSED IMMIGRATION

The workers are objecting to the Canadian government's policy of bonusing immigrants. The cry of Kipling was to pump the British immigrants in and we have been doing so. The result has been that we have broad acres of land and idle workers. The explanation is simple.

Workingmen form a great proportion of the purchasing public. To buy goods a man must have money and to have money to purchase a decent quantity of goods a man must be well paid. If workers work for a bare living, and are not given a sufficient wage to purchase the goods they produce, the natural result is that there are workers who produce and cannot consume. On

the one hand there is superabundance of food, clothing and goods that cannot be sold and on the other hand are tramps, hunger-stricken men and shivering half naked day laborers who want but cannot buy because they have not got the price.

The immigrants who land are willing to work for next to nothing. To compete, the home grown Canadian workers have to cut the price of their labor and goods are produced with men not earning enough to buy. The market becomes over-stocked and workers are discharged while food may rot for lack of purchasers.

The remedy if protection is maintained, is to appoint a minimum wage for workers so that men can consume what they themselves produce.

MR. FISHER IS THE SHATTERED IDOL OF BROME COUNTY

PROTECTIONISTS AND THE WORKERS

The protectionists, when they talk of protecting the manufacturers, always trot out the argument that protection will benefit the working people. The idea is that if the manufacturers are assisted some of the assistance will filter down to the workers.

We have never been able to see how protection will assist the workers of Canada. The manufacturers want to make money by boosting prices above the competitive point. The workingmen's wages will rise but not to so high a point, so that the net result is that the workers get more wages and pay twice as much for their goods they purchase.

If the protectionist asserts that it would be better for workingmen to get work at lower wages than no work at all, the whole ground of argument at once shifts. In this latter case the protectionist believes in exploiting the laborer for the laborer's good. But a young nation does not need to have its workers exploited. The broad acres of Canada are sufficient to support all her workers without any of them being artificially exploited for the benefit of a few.

The argument is advanced that protection will attract laborers and build up the country the natural reply is that a patriotic Canadian does not desire to build up his country on the work of those who are poorly rewarded. As a matter of fact the protectionist wants protection because protection will make a few people rich and will boom the stock of industrial concerns. If the protectionists really desired to benefit the workingmen they would see to it that the Government enacted a minimum wage for an eight hour day.

We listened to Borden at the Cowansville picnic and almost turned Conservative. We listened to Roblin and the others and remained Independent.

MR. FISHER'S chief persistent policy has been to keep himself in office.

BONUSING FACTORIES

Many small villages desire to become manufacturing centres. The rulers of these small places have become convinced that the only kind of a civilization worth having is a civilization based upon factory soot.

We are not yet convinced that modern industrialism as now carried on is altogether a blessing. If a small town can develop normally it is well. We cannot stay the march of events. But for a little country village to deliberately invite a factory to come into its midst and pay it for so doing to us appears a foolish proceeding.

Where a factory town develops there is poverty, misery, and hunger. Girls are taken from their homes and put to work at routine tasks. Of course if citizens believe it is better to work ten hours a day producing socks or gloves or buttons till the market is glutted and then to endure a period of industrial depression with hunger facing half the population, than to have the girls in the homes and the men on their little farms, we have nothing to say. The question is then merely one of

ESPERANTO

For long centuries the world has sighed for an universal language. Mankind the world over finds that there is little real difference between the various races with regard to their primal longings and aspirations. But mankind finds itself split into separate and distinct aggregations on account of the differences in languages.

For the educated gentlemen of Europe during the Middle Ages, Latin was the means of communication between men of different languages. In India today Sanskrit is the language of the educated. Sanskrit is the dead language upon which the culture and literature of India is based and the Indians of the educated classes find little difficulty in talking the one with the other.

But to modern Europe, no such language is at present in use. Consequently Esperanto has been invented to fill the gap.

Esperanto possesses a grammar with eighteen rules. It is based on root words largely employed in Europe with various terminations and prefixes to distinguish the different inflexions of the same word. Thus instead of using three words for rooster, hen and chicken an Esperantist would say, Coquo, coquino, coquido. Bull, cow and calf would be styled, Bovo, bovino and bovido. The language is so simple it is said that any person who knows an European language can learn to talk it fluently in a week.

The language being simple and easily learned is already largely employed by many international commercial firms of Europe and its use is rapidly spreading.

Many small Liberal weeklies are attacking the present government. We are far from being alone in possessing the idea that the Ottawa Liberals are not Liberals.

AN INCIDENT OF '96

In 1896 there was held a great rally of Liberals in the town of Farnham. Those were the days in which the Liberal Platform of '93 was being paraded through the length and breadth of the land. The gathering at Farnham was a great gathering. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fisher and many other prominent Liberals denounced the extravagance and corruption of the Conservatives. Mr. Daniel Meigs was among those who spoke. It was the first time we had ever heard or seen Mr. Meigs and we waited in impatience for the words of wisdom which were to fall from his lips. He denounced corruption; he denounced the Conservatives; he denounced many things, in unison with the Liberals, but on one thing he disagreed with his colleagues.

He believed that protection was necessary to Canada; he believed that duties should be raised instead of lowered. The crowd listened in amazement at such words from a Liberal. For fully five minutes Mr. Daniel Meigs continued his protection talk while his leaders regarded him with grave reproof in their looks. At last Mr. Meigs left the topic and again began to denounce the Conservatives. A voice from the crowd drawled forth "Now you're talking boss sense." At this the crowd yelled with delight and we waited in eager wonder to hear a crushing rejoinder come from "Old Dan," but all that fell from his lips was a discomfited laugh.

"OLD DAN" RIGHT

Mr. Meigs, however, was wiser than his leaders. He alone believed in the protective policy; his leaders were against it and it speaks well for the foresight and influence of Mr. Meigs that he could turn the Liberal government from the platform of '93 into the devious by-ways of protection.

We have frequently heard that Mr. Meigs has great influence in committee. This must mean that he has been able to lead Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fisher and the rest of the Liberals away from the doctrine of free trade as they have it in England and have brought them to support the doctrine of modified protection.

If this view of the matter be correct, Missisquoi voters little recognize the genius hid away in the brain behind the shaggy eyebrows of their member. They voted for Mr. Meigs because he was a Liberal and they have reelected him on that ground, nevertheless, while posing as a Liberal, he has been preaching and supporting the Conservative doctrine of protection.

POLITICS IN THE STATES

The question of the success of Bryan or Taft in the forthcoming elections across the border is being keenly discussed. Taft's chances are becoming dimmer and the chances of Bryan are becoming brighter. Radicalism is rampant in the States and Bryan is as radical as the average American of means desires.

There are several causes working for Bryan's success as well as several causes against it. Roosevelt has supported Taft loyally, but the people feel that Taft is standing in with the monetary interests and that Bryan is more likely to carry on the policies of Roosevelt than is Taft. Bryan is showing unexpected strength in the West. This is due to the fact that the West is still strongly Protestant and many voters of that region are convinced that Taft is more or less friendly to the political schemes of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. Recently Bryan made an extensive trip through the States and spoke in many pulpits, advocating those views of life which are dear to the heart of old-fashioned Protestants. The American newspapers in their usual levity of spirit have declared that this trip was the best politics that Bryan ever indulged in, because, they say, he gave the people the doctrines the people wanted and at the same time believes them himself.

Bryan would surely win did he have a clear field. There are, however, five other Presidential candidates in the field who will split the radical vote. The Protectionists, the Socialists, the Pop-

ulists, the Independents and the Socialist-Laborites all have their candidates in the field.

It is just a question whether there are sufficient independent men of small means to elect Bryan or whether he will be crushed out of existence between the trusts and moneyed interests on the one side and the extreme radicals on the other.

LAURIER SHOULD COME TO COWANSVILLE

Now that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is campaigning in Quebec we would strongly recommend him to come to Cowansville in order to undo some of the evil work accomplished by Borden and his associates at the Cowansville Picnic.

Dr. Pickel in Missisquoi and Mr. Olmstead in Brome, have done good work for the Conservative cause, and Laurier himself is the only Liberal of the old school in which the people of this section of the country have any faith.

Should Laurier come to Cowansville he would be royally welcomed by the citizens of the village and his words would be listened to attentively.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Sic 'em Olmstead.

Pugsley is qualifying as the coward of the campaign.

Should the Brome Liberals see fit to elect us in place of Mr. Fisher, we will help Sir Wilfrid free himself from the grasp of the Ottawa gang. Sir Wilfrid needs the help of independent men who have some spirit in them and who can fight.

MR. FISHER has done many things for Liberal Healers but very few things for the farmers

It is rumored that Mr. Michel Auger desires to run in Brome County. If Candidates keep multiplying we will all lose our deposits.

Many Liberals are working tooth and nail to keep the Liberal rogues in office because peradventure Borden may become corrupt.

Laurier is saying that no man can be half so honest as Borden talks. Of course he cannot be with the gang Sir Wilfrid has around him.

Six customs officers at Mansonville should be enough to guard the border line. Yet smuggled shovels are easily purchased in Brome County.

We are glad that Chas. Parmelee, Esq., M. P. for Shefford, has been made King's Printer. The appointment is a popular one and Charlie deserves it.

Mr. Fisher has been chosen by a small group of Brome county voters as their candidate. We also will be chosen by a small group of Brome county voters as their candidate.

Our honored contemporary, the St. John's News, continually wounds our editorial susceptibilities by referring to us as the Cowansville Observer. We are not the Cowansville Observer; we are THE OBSERVER, Cowansville.

The following is a communication we have received from a Brome Voter. "I think THE OBSERVER is a lying, dirty, rotten, Tory sheet, full of Tory scandals and Tory lies." Evidently there is one Brome Liberal who is not going to vote for us.

On hearing Borden discuss how rich the Liberal healers are becoming on government funds we almost wished we had remained a follower of the Ottawa Liberals. If the Montreal Herald can get fat government printing jobs totalling a quarter of a million, THE OBSERVER should have been able to pick up a half a million.