

Free Press Prairie Farmer

Printed and published every Wednesday by the Winnipeg Free Press Company, Limited, a joint stock company, incorporated under the laws of Manitoba, at its head office and place of business, Nos. 300, 302, 304, 306 Carlton Street, in the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Subscription: In Canada and Great Britain, 1 year, \$1.00; 2 years, \$1.50. In United States, 1 year, \$2.00.

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F. H. MACKLIN,
President and General Manager.

Great Britain Goes Protectionist

The tariff discussion which has been proceeding in Great Britain has revealed at least three views as to the need and the purpose of a tariff, all of which have merged, for the time being, in support of the measure submitted on Thursday to the British Parliament. There are those who justify the temporary imposition of a tariff on the grounds of expediency; the check which it will give to imports will lessen the pressure on sterling and hasten the time when the pound can be stabilized, though at a devaluated level. The idea of a ten per cent. tariff for the furthering of these ends has been floating about in political and economic circles for a year or more. John Maynard Keynes and Sir Josiah Stamp gave it the weight of their powerful support; and it was pretty well understood that the Economic Advisory Council appointed by the late Government was favorable to the experiment. The new tariff scheme will derive some relatively slight support from people holding these views, most of whom would reaffirm their fidelity to free trade as the best available policy for Great Britain.

Then there is the much more powerful group, which has commended a protective tariff as a means of forcing the world generally to reconsider its devotion to high tariffs. It has been argued that so long as the great British market was free to them, the high tariff nations would continue to protect their own markets against British importations, while dumping their surpluses upon Great Britain. Let Britain herself get into the game and these tariff-mad countries would begin to see matters in another light. A protective tariff would thus be, it was claimed, a first step towards the abatement of the world-wide tariff nuisance. Mr. Baldwin has devoted many speeches to the presentation of this argument; and it has underlain the tariff propaganda which the Times has carried on for years. The Times recently published an elaborate series of articles entitled, "A True Tariff Policy," in which there is insistence upon the vital necessity to Great Britain of not embarking upon tariff experiments which will have the effect of contracting the volume of international trade. The article is studded with qualifications; as for instance:

Great Britain is more dependent upon her export trade than any other country. Tariffs which protected the home market but reduced Great Britain's competitive strength in world markets might do more harm than good.

If British tariff policy is fully adapted to national requirements it must differ materially from ordinary protectionist doctrine. Greater sanity in the tariff policies of other nations is a predominant British interest. What Great Britain has failed to accomplish through the method of International Conference she may achieve by the force of example.

With these admissions the Times finds it necessary to demonstrate that these interests can be safeguarded and even advanced by the improved protective tariff by which Great Britain will put to shame the more crudely protectionist

countries. It is learned from the Times that the British tariff is going to do marvellous things. It is not going to shelter inefficiency or increase productive costs; it will lower costs to consumers; it will encourage exports; its schedules will be designed and applied on a strictly scientific basis which will exclude all considerations of a political, financial or personal nature. The Times admits that elsewhere (including the Dominions which are specially mentioned) protectionist policies have had these unfortunate effects; but in Great Britain things will be different. To Canadians these claims and assurances will sound vaguely familiar; they will recall that they have heard something very like them before.

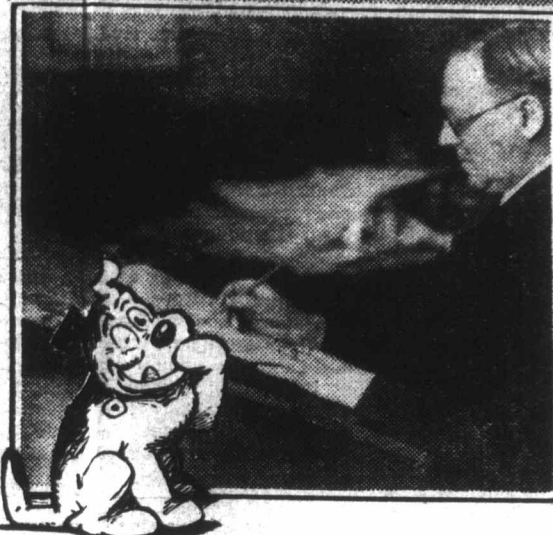
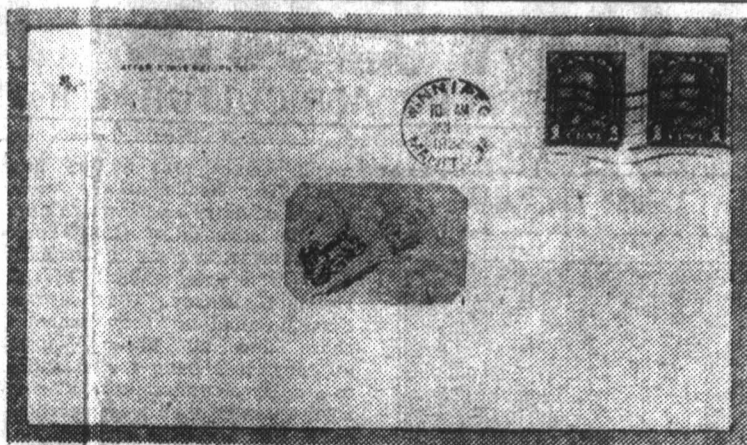
But the influences and interests which have fashioned the tariff policy which is now to be imposed upon Great Britain have little regard for the qualifications and refinements of these experimentalists and theorists. What Great Britain is going to have is a policy of high protection conceived in that spirit of unregarding fanaticism which always characterizes these movements and enforced with relentless severity. A ten per cent tariff would, of course, not be regarded in Canada as a protective tariff at all; but if there are any who think that this marks the limit of the British fiscal experiment they will be promptly enlightened. The tariff of ten per cent is merely a primage tax; upon this foundation there is to be erected a structure of protection, to the building of which the efforts of a special body of planners will be directed. The statutory maximum, under conditions as to which the Government will be the judge, is fixed at 100 per cent. And these taxes are to be put on by executive action by the Treasury Department, the guiding spirit of which is Neville Chamberlain, who will be driven by his own convictions, by filial devotion and by the pressure of the same kind of interests that control the making of our tariff, to get the tariff with the least possible delay up to the maximum; and to keep it there by the massed support of its beneficiaries. Great Britain, in short, has joined as a major combatant in the great world tariff war; with the consequent speeding up of the strangulation of world trade which is already so far advanced.

The Dairy Convention

With prices of number one creamery butter down almost to the point at which dairy butter sold in 1896, it speaks volumes for the courage and faith of those engaged in the dairy industry in Manitoba that so largely attended and so successful a gathering as the 47th annual convention of the Manitoba Dairy Association just closed could have been held.

Saskatchewan and Alberta had felt it necessary to postpone their dairy conventions for this year owing to the depression, but Manitoba's dairymen, using that term to include all engaged in any branch of the industry, took the opposite view, namely that in times of trouble it is well to proceed along as nearly normal lines as possible; that it is better to make an effort to get together and talk matters out than to sit at home and brood. The results certainly justified the decision. There was nothing of the "oh, be joyful, prosperity is just around the corner" at any session. Everyone present realized that the situation was serious and it was given serious consideration. No speaker ventured to predict that there was any likelihood of rapid improvement in prices, but over and over again the point was stressed that the way out lay through hard work to lower production and operating

ARCH DALE'S UNIQUE ADDRESS



has become so well known that it was a sufficient address to carry the letter to the intended recipient.

With only the little dog as an address, the envelope shown above was delivered to Arch Dale, containing a letter of admiration from one of his fans. The picture at the right shows Archie at work at his drawing board. An effort was made to keep the little dog out of the picture but he howled so piteously that Archie weakened and let him in. Mr. Dale's cartoons have, for years, been a feature of the Free Press Prairie Farmer. The little dog

costs; to improve herds and increase average production per cow.

These were felt to be matters that, to a considerable extent, were within their own control and given sufficient attention might result in making it possible to obtain a margin of profit even if prices did not advance materially in the next few years. It was realized that it would be unwise to decrease production but eminently wise to endeavor to bring production and operation costs to a point where it would be possible to export, take the world price and still have a margin of profit.

It was entirely fitting that this convention should be the occasion of the official farewell of Dr. J. A. Ruddick to the dairy industry of Canada, as in the very early days, as the first assistant to the late Dr. J. W. Robertson, he had much to do with developing both creamery butter and cheese making in Manitoba. His presence acted as a reminder of those early struggles, the successes which followed them, and suggested that renewed efforts now would be crowned with equal successes in the future. "The best convention and the best 'butter show we have ever had,' was the general verdict of delegates. It is 'daily march onward' and never say fail" for the dairy industry of Manitoba.

Radio Policy for Canada

Hon. Alfred Durand, Minister of Marine replying to a delegation of the Canadian Radio League, announced that nothing could be done in the matter of policy until the decision of the Privy Council has been delivered as to jurisdiction over radio whether federal or provincial.

Whatever that decision is, however, on the legalistic aspects the logic of events seems to point more and more to the conclusion that if radio is to survive in this Dominion as a Canadian entity it can only do so under Dominion aegis. Leaving aside altogether the question of distribution of wave lengths over the continent, although that is one which must be faced and in the nature of things can only be secured by national action, the past year has demonstrated that radio left to private enterprise is dying so far as Canadian initiative is concerned. The number of across

Canada programmes relayed this season was less than half the number of last year. Of the companies which last year conducted these nation-wide broadcasts one fell out altogether and the two railways cut their three hours to an hour and a quarter. The use of the local stations has also been restricted so that the average station is only using a part of its allotted time.

In this connection the Canadian Radio League points out that of the 64 physical stations in Canada, only six are on the air more than an average of ten hours a day, and four of these six average some six hours of American relay programmes and are found in Toronto and Montreal. Of the remainder twenty-one are on the air between five and ten hours a day, fifteen are on less than two hours.

Plainly Canadian firms do not consider the advertising possibilities of sufficient importance to support national broadcasting schemes. Hence if national broadcasting is to survive in this Dominion it must be under some other system, and the possible one is under federal control supported chiefly by license.

The alternative is not Canadian commercial control, but existence as a subsidiary of this commercial control from the United States.

Mr. Meighen's Return

The news from Ottawa that Mr. Arthur Meighen has been appointed to the Senate, and that he is going into the Cabinet as Minister without portfolio, means the return to active public life of one of Canada's ablest politicians. Mr. Meighen's return will be an accession of strength not only to the Conservative party and the Ministry, it will bring to the service of the country practical gifts of statesmanship which should never have been lost, and bring them back at a time when such gifts are urgently in demand in the administration of the national affairs.

There have never been doubts as to Mr. Meighen's outstanding abilities, particularly in western Canada, of which he is a product, and whose people have always had the highest regard for his qualities, coupled with personal liking for himself. That he lost his seat

in 1926 is merely one more indictment against the weakness of our electoral system. Under an adequate system of representation, the country would not be deprived of the services of such a man, and he would not find himself, after intense and arduous exertions in the public service, shut out in the cold to fortify himself with reflections on the uncertainty of human fortune. There will always be the feeling, at least in the West, that Arthur Meighen has had something less than justice; this, however, is the fate public men must face, but if the balance can be properly adjusted so much the better all round.

From a strictly party standpoint, Mr. Meighen's reappearance in the political arena should arouse little enthusiasm in the Liberal party. His senatorship could be relinquished at no greater expense of time or trouble than the writing of his resignation, and he could then pass to the battlefield of the Commons where his formidable powers in debate would again come into action against his political opponents, by whom they are well remembered. To take the narrow party view about a man like Arthur Meighen, however, is to misconstrue the whole intention of democratic institutions. The contribution such men make to public life is national in its scope and value, and the question of party advantage is a secondary consideration. Arthur Meighen is a strong, fair antagonist who can be honorably fought with, and from whom defeat or victory can be accepted without either bitterness or apprehension.

Mr. Meighen is returning to politics just when his experience and knowledge will be of particular value to the country, and to his own party as well. This Dominion at the present stage in its history is in need of the services of the best men it possesses. And Arthur Meighen is one of them.

Explanations in Order

The classic example in Canadian tariff history of the failure of tariff expedients to bring results is likely to be supplied by the agricultural implements business. When agricultural implements were coming into the country in such a volume that the advocates of the home market theory were transfixed with horror, the Canadian implement factories were busy, production was large, there was ample employment and the firms made money. Since the coming of high tariff various things have been happening. Production is down to the lowest levels in decades, employment is only 25 per cent. of what it was, and most of the companies are taking heavy losses. Thus during its last year under the ruinous low tariff the Cockshutt Plow Co. made a profit of \$327,799, but after Mr. Bennett had rushed to the rescue of the implement industry it lost, in a year, \$494,486. This will take some explaining.

Words of the Wise

It is a proof of great talents to recall the mind from the senses and to separate thought from habit. —Cicero.

People will not look forward to prosperity, who never look backward to their ancestors. —Burke.

He that despiseth small things will perish by little and little. —Emerson.

Man's inhumanity to man Makes countless thousands mourn! —Burns.

The world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it in turn will look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly kind companion. —Thackeray.