

National Liberal and Conservative BULLETIN

NUMBER 13

OTTAWA, CANADA, AUGUST 6, 1921

VOLUME 1

MACKENZIE KING THE ENIGMATICAL BROUGHT TO BOOK

Mr. Mackenzie King has been declaring himself again enigmatically on the tariff. According to the "Toronto Globe," he said at Tillsonburg:

"The Liberal Party is not, and never had been since there had been a tariff in Canada, for free trade. The issue was between a protective tariff and a tariff for revenue, but not between a protective tariff and no tariff at all, which was the meaning of free trade."

It is about time to expose this time worn tariff for revenue without protection fallacy. To apply the term "tariff for revenue" to a tariff imposed only on imported goods is absolutely incorrect. Any tariff on imported goods of a class or kind manufactured in Canada is a protective tariff to the Canadian manufacturers to the extent of the rates that may be imposed. Nothing could be clearer or plainer than this, nor could anything be clearer or more evident than that the only true tariff for revenue, without protection, is a tariff or tax which applies equally to imported goods and to goods manufactured or produced in Canada. Mr. King says revenue is what he wants—not protection, upon which he pretends to frown—and so, to be consistent, his tariff for revenue must bear equally upon home-made goods as upon imported goods.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Mackenzie King and his party are in a serious dilemma. They are trying to be friends with two sharply opposing interests—the manufacturers, and the organized farmers—and to do so they have to resort to camouflage, if not deception. They say to the farmer:

"We are with you. We are against protection. We believe in a tariff only for revenue," and to the manufacturer (privately mostly) they say, "We are with you also because a tariff for revenue must, in view of the great necessities of the revenue, be sufficient high to afford you all the protection you want."

Hypocrisies Made Manifest

The issues cannot be said to be clarified by Mr. King's recent utterances but the hypocrisies have been made more manifest. The Government stands four square for a reasonable, moderate tariff, not higher nor lower than is necessary to provide the maximum amount of profitable labour to the people in all spheres of activity; it stands practically for the tariff which has been in operation in Canada for forty years, under both Conservative and Liberal Governments, and which has done so much to develop the country.

Mr. King straddles and twists. He doesn't want to offend either the manufacturer or the farmer and he is holding up the same bait to them both in the vain hope that both will be fooled. We say again that his tariff for revenue talk is the merest buncombe. He dare not come out openly and say that what he favours is a true tariff for revenue which would apply to the same extent exactly on home-made goods as on imported goods. He knows the vast majority of Liberals in Eastern Canada are moderate and reasonable protectionists, just as the supporters of the Government are, and he is trying to placate them by promising them protection under the cover and guise of a so-called tariff for revenue on all imported goods. In other words, he would give protection stealthily but not openly.

From Another Point of View.

Look at the subject from another angle. No one can dispute that any tariff imposed on imported goods alone will afford protection more or less (according to the rates imposed) to Canadian manufacturers. Why not then take advantage of the position to make that protection sufficient by applying it scientifically instead of haphazard. The necessities of the revenue are so great as to justify a tariff which scientifically applied would be sufficient to foster and promote the development of every legitimate Canadian industry.

The glamour of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's name and personality enabled him to persuade many of his followers that there was a substantial difference between his so-called tariff for revenue and a protective tariff, but in reality there was no practical difference. The Liberal tariff in operation for 15 years was a protective tariff, was

The Spectre of Unemployment A MOST GRAVE SITUATION

The statement made by Senator Robertson, Minister of Labour, in regard to unemployment should arouse the whole people of the country. The situation is a tremendously serious one. The Minister states that:

"A true idea of the existing situation may be drawn from the fact that in January, 1920, 3,242 firms engaged in fourteen different lines of manufacture employed 395,299 workmen, while in July, 1921, these same firms had only 319,710 on their payrolls, a decrease of 75,589, or 19 per cent, at a season when normally their staffs are substantially increased over winter levels. Ninety lumbering firms reported 18,802 men employed in January, 1920, with but 6,656 in July, 1921, a decrease of 65 per cent, notwithstanding the fact that British Columbia logging operations are carried on during the summer months and normally about offset the decrease in employees in Eastern Canada. One hundred and sixty-eight mining concerns show a decrease of 3,091 men or 8 per cent below midwinter level. The manufacture, mining and lumber industries fairly reflect the true situation it is stated.

"Probably little over half of the firms engaged in these industries have reported to the department of Labour, it is stated, but those who have show a total decrease of over 90,000 employees now as compared with midwinter a year ago. Iron and steel alone show a drop of 41,314 or 30 per cent."

These facts cannot be viewed other than with great alarm, especially considering that winter, with all its rigours, will be upon us in a few months. Something has to be done, and done right away, to improve conditions. The brains of the country should get together to find the solution. Instead of playing politics our public men should be joining hands with our business leaders to bring about the necessary remedies. In the

face of the situation, the ranting and raving of some politicians, anxious only for office, are sorrowful exhibitions. The problem is to find the withdrawal of employment to provide bread and butter for well over 100,000 unemployed working people with their families and dependents. Blather about usurpation of power and autocratic government will not avail. Intelligent and immediate action and co-operation are needed—not meaningless talk. The desire of Mackenzie King and the Hon. Mr. Crerar to get into office shrink into infinitesimal insignificance beside the cry of the great army of unemployed for means of subsistence. Away, with your politics, gentlemen! We should have none of them while there are hungry hordes of our good people to be sustained and fed.

What immediate remedy can be applied? Senator Robertson struck a sound note when he stated that:

"Every Canadian citizen has an individual responsibility and can aid in minimizing unemployment in Canada by purchasing only Canadian-made goods. Approximately 70 per cent of the cost of manufactured goods represents the cost of labour in the various stages of production. \$100,000,000 worth of Canadian-made goods purchased means \$70,000,000 distributed to Canadian workmen which would be spent for the maintenance of themselves, their homes and dependents, and which would also circulate through many hands and remain in Canada. The purchase of the same amount of imported goods which could have been produced at home contributes to the unemployment of scores of thousands of Canadian workmen, to want and suffering for their families, to industrial unrest and to the necessity of unemployment relief.

"Our factories running to 100 per cent capacity means lower unit costs, hence lower production costs and better wages

with our labour employed and contented."

We strongly commend these words of information and advice to the thoughtful consideration of every man and woman in the country. There is no doubt that by putting the brakes on imports from the United States we would do a great deal to remedy the situation—the most deplorable with which Canada has ever been faced. We are buying today, annually, from the United States about \$800,000,000 worth of goods, of which one-third at least could be made at home. How long? How long will we continue to be fools? With over 140,000 good Canadians out of employment and winter shortly coming, when unemployment will surely become worse unless remedial steps be taken, does it not seem the height of absurdity to patronize United States workmen rather than our own? It is worse than absurdity, it is sheer insanity, when one considers that because we buy so much from the United States we have to pay through the nose for doing so to the tune of 12c to 15c on the dollar.

A thunderous trumpet note should go forth throughout the length and breadth of the land calling upon the people to be up and doing if we are to avoid sore distress. We cannot long continue under present conditions without something breaking seriously. Bankruptcy may be our fate unless we gird up our loins and pursue a national policy which will provide the necessary employment of a diversified character for all the people. The awful discount of our dollar in the United States is bleeding us white. Shut out from the United States market and swamped with United States goods, the manufacture of which takes the bread and butter from our own workmen, we are a shackled people. To remove these shackles should be the constant and persistent aim of every good citizen, irrespective of politics and prejudice. When the nation is in grave danger the people should stand together as one and fight, as they did so gloriously in the war, until the menace is overcome.

TWELVE POINTS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

Take a look at the following bird's eye view of some Canadian conditions and then ask yourselves seriously if it is not the duty of all right thinking people to stand and work together towards the maintenance of stable government representative of all the people.

- (1) We have an enormous debt and taxation due to our war activities.
- (2) We are loaded with a National Railway System which cannot be made self-sustaining without greatly increased development and population.
- (3) The country's revenues are falling at an alarming rate.
- (4) Foreign trade is on the decline owing largely to the inability of Europe to purchase and to the fact that the United States tariff acts as a serious check to, if not prohibition of, our exports.
- (5) Domestic trade is in the doldrums. Workmen are slow to accept lower wages, and people won't buy because they think prices are too high.
- (6) Considerably over 100,000 workmen are out of employment and the probabilities are that the number will be greatly swelled during the coming winter.
- (7) Our dollar is discounted from 12 cents to 14 cents in the United States market, the effect of which is to increase the cost and price of all commodities in Canada.
- (8) Organized farmer bodies are politically out for themselves and themselves alone.
- (9) Radical labour men, who are against all governments, are joining with the farmers.
- (10) The rump of the once great Liberal party—without a real policy or leader—is playing the old fashioned game of politics—regardless of national consequences.
- (11) Some professional politicians in Quebec preach the doctrine of revenge rather than advocate advancement of the country's weal.
- (12) The people have not yet recovered from the war. They are still in a dazed condition and are feebly groping for light.

No Time for Experiments

We are headed for serious trouble and difficulty unless we join hands and insist upon stable government by the best men the country has.

Seriously, in the face of the foregoing conditions do you think this is an opportune time to try rash political or commercial experiments? Is it not rather a time to sit tight with the firm determination to hold fast to the traditions under which we prospered so greatly in the past?

Group government such as we are gravely threatened with would lead us nowhere, would only make confusion worse confounded.

Pandering to zealots and extremists is sheer folly. Sympathy is wasted upon disgruntled politicians who shout political revenge while over 100,000 workmen are yearning for the means to provide bread and butter for themselves and their little ones.

Co-operation towards binding and healing and resolute will to overcome difficulties by downright, hard, honest work, can save us. If we continue to make work secondary to play and continue to trifle with politics and politicians, instead of facing national questions seriously, the future will surely have some bitter surprises in store for us.

A CONTRAST

The West has a bountiful crop, thank God, which will ensure them comfort, if not actual prosperity.

The industrial East is suffering seriously and will suffer more seriously before the snows of next winter disappear.

And yet the western politicians are clamouring for the scalp of the East.

Have a heart, you western fellows!

Speaking of National Anthems, what about "God Save Mr. King Till We Get At Him?"

The light in the window has not been mentioned for some time. Apparently it and D. D. Mackenzie went out together.

POLITICAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

Immediately following the provincial elections in Alberta the "Manitoba Free Press," the most powerful newspaper organ west of the Great Lakes, very properly declared that it was the manifest duty of Mr. Wood to take the Premiership of the province because he was the moving spirit, the recognized leader and the seer of the Farmer Party there. Mr. Wood, however, prefers to be "the power behind the throne."

Representative Government has been turned into a farce in Alberta. The elected members of the Farmer Party are not the representatives of the community. They are the representatives of a powerful co-operative trade organization and class. They go to the Legislature with their hands completely tied. They cannot exercise any individual judgment. They have to do the bidding of the organization, which means the bidding of the masters of the organization; otherwise they can be recalled and relegated to political obscurity. Parliamentary Government is therefore made subordinate to the small group of men in control of an organization outside the Government. The directors and controllers of the U.F.A. will be a law unto themselves and at the crack of the whip the farmer members of the Legislature and the Government will do as they are told and directed. And this is called the Progressive movement!

designed and framed as a protective tariff and became more and more protective as the time went on. But it was not an extreme tariff. It was not a tariff suitable to the "high as Haman's gallows" advocates. It was a moderate tariff designed to be fair alike to producers and consumers. It is the tariff which is in force today and the principle of which has been accepted by all believers in protection supporting the Government. It is the tariff which in their hearts is supported by nine-tenths of the Liberals of Eastern Canada.

Nowhere is the Farmer movement more feared and hated than in the province of Quebec. The party politician hates it because through it he may lose his occupation; the manufacturers fear it because it threatens the destruction of their industries; merchants and financial men fear it because they realize it would bring about demoralization and chaos in business. When the real test comes the people of the Province will be constrained in their own interests, in common with the rest of the community who are not radical farmers—to vote for the security of their bread and butter.

"Rhodomontade" is the Montreal Gazette's description of Mr. Mackenzie King's recent speeches.

We hope, for the sake of his province, that Mr. Greenfield, the new Premier of Alberta, will not prove to be like the first part of his name!

The "Financial Times" of Toronto says of the election of the United Farmer Party in Alberta:—

"It is high time that the people of Canada took stock of this movement and informed themselves as to the real menace which lies in these aggressive plans formed by one class in the community, organized into a solid unit for the purposes of trade and politics."

The man who lives for himself is usually a selfish cuss; and as it is with individuals, so it is with groups organized for self-aggrandisement.

Well over 100,000 men are out of employment in Canada today, a condition due in large part to excessive purchases in the United States; yet, we find Mackenzie King running up and down the country advocating lower tariff which would surely mean greater imports from the United States and corresponding less employment in Canada.

Lincoln's famous Gettysburg declaration, in favour of "government of the people by the people and for the people," is translated in Alberta to "Government of the U.F.A. by the U.F.A. and for the U.F.A."

It has been said jokingly that the Americans won the war, but there is no joke about the fact that they are gradually winning Canada by impoverishing it. If they are permitted to keep on swamping us with their goods while our workmen are out of employment, and discounting our dollar, we will before long have no dollars left wherewith to buy from them or to have them discount.

A national conference of the brains of the country should be convened to hold an inquest as to the political and commercial sanity of the people. The people cannot be really sane in these senses so long as they continue to pay the Americans 14 cents on every dollar's worth of goods they buy from them when by purchasing less from the United States and making more goods at home they could avoid paying this premium and provide employment for most, if not all, of the 140,000 Canadian workmen now on the streets.

The Montreal Gazette, arguing from the fact that now at the height of the working and production season there are over 100,000 workmen out of employment, predicts that there may be an army of 300,000 out of employment during the winter. What are we going to do about it? Shrug our shoulders, pass the buck and continue to play the silly political game, or get together for the salvation of the country?

The bed of the Prime Minister is not one of roses. Certain eastern interests demand that he appeal to the country at once, and, on the other hand, western interests almost unanimously demand that he remain in office until after redistribution.