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Member A-R-C.

Thursday, October 1, 1925.

Canada's Industrial Future at Stake

The Free Press publishes on the editorial page of to-day's edition a letter which Russell R. Sparks, a well-known clothing manufacturer and president of the Canadian Association of Garment Manufacturers, has forwarded, resigning from his official position in order to campaign against the King Government. The chief significance in his letter lies in the fact that Mr. Sparks has been one of the leading members of the Liberal party in Ottawa. He was president until recently of the Ottawa Liberal Association and has been one of the most active workers of the party in the capital.

Mr. Sparks in his letter says that he is at a loss to understand "how any intelligent business man, with knowledge of the facts with which we are so familiar, could regard the return to power of the King Government with anything but alarm." Mr. Sparks points out that Mr. King, among other announcements, has declared that he proposes to reduce the duties on the necessities of life. This is a vague declaration, but if it means anything it means that there is to be a reduction in the duty on clothing. Mr. Sparks says that any further reduction in the duties on clothing would result in the closing up of the Canadian factories. Mr. Sparks says that competition is so keen in Canada that in his judgment neither a reduction in the tariff nor an increase in the tariff would affect the selling price. The only result of a reduction of the tariff would be to displace Canadian-made clothing with the products of foreign countries. He says even to-day the Canadian market is being flooded with the products of the sweat shops of Europe and Japan.

Mr. Sparks, as president of the association, knows what he is talking about when he says that last year 150 clothing manufacturers were forced to assign, and "many closed up without going through the court. He adds: "Thousands of our workers have already been thrown out of work as a result of the tariff reductions made by the present Government and the lack of adequate regulations against dumping. Thousands more would suffer the same fate if further reductions are made." Premier King, who persists in telling the country that no factories have been closed and this is all manufactured talk by Mr. Meighen, might pause to read this statement by Mr. Sparks.

Mr. Sparks in summing up says: "I have reached the conclusion, after a great deal of thought, that the whole industrial future of Canada is threatened by the return of the King Government, and, although I have always been associated with the Liberal party, I propose to take as active a part as I can in the defeat of the present administration."

John Brown at Chatham

The connection of the Western Ontario City of Chatham with the famous raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., by John Brown is a matter of history. At the Canadian town, in May of 1858, plans were laid for the blow which a year and a half later startled the whole republic and sent the South into a panic in the belief that the long-dreaded negro insurrection had at last come.

There has recently come to light some curious evidence with regard to the financing of the extensive operations in which Brown engaged. It is now claimed that the money for the raid was supplied by a negro woman, Mrs. Mary E. Pleasants, who is stated to have been in Chatham when Brown came there and to have placed in his hands for his purposes upwards of thirty thousand dollars, the larger part of a considerable fortune which had been left to her by her husband.

There are many aspects of Brown's last activities which have never been satisfactorily cleared up. It is stated that when he was captured correspondence was found which was signed with the initials "W. E. P.," and which indicated that the writer was financing the operations to a large degree. Mrs. Pleasants died at San Francisco in 1901, and before her death made a statement to Sam P. Davis, the editor of a Carson City, Nevada, newspaper, that the authorities had misread the first letter of her initials on the Brown correspondence. With much detail she narrated her share in the events of 1859.

An interesting part of her statement is to the effect that while in Chatham she purchased several lots and it is claimed that the county records of Kent show a deed dated September 7, 1853, in which Rev. Archibald Campbell conveyed four lots on Park avenue and Campbell street to one John J. Pleasants, the husband of Mary Pleasants. This deed was witnessed by Thomas F. Carey and William H. Day. The Kent County Historical Society might profitably follow up this matter and see if further evidence can be secured. The Historic and Monuments Commission of Canada has under consideration at the present time the marking in some way of the place where Brown held his famous Chatham "convention" in May of 1858.

The Tariff on Motor Cars

Automobiles entering Canada pay too high a duty, according to W. D. Euler, in his speech accepting the Liberal candidature in North Waterloo. But if Mr. Euler has convictions,

upon the subject, he swallowed them in Parliament. A little over six months ago, G. G. Coote (Prog., Macleod), moved: "That in the opinion of this House, a substantial reduction should be made in the customs tariff on automobiles and motor trucks." The resolution was defeated, 56 to 67, and among those voting "nay" was the member for North Waterloo.

Motor cars and trucks are a necessity nowadays, not only to manufacturers and merchants, but to those in many other lines of business, including farming. Mr. King in his Richmond Hill speech reiterated that "the instruments of production essential to the development of our basic industries and the necessities of life should be taxed as lightly as possible." Yet he and six of his ministers helped to kill the Coote resolution last March.

Of course, the 10 per cent. luxury tax still imposed has much to do with the excess cost of motor cars here as compared with the prices over the border. That is looked upon by the consumer as a tariff, and the protective tariff gets the whole blame. The sales tax adds further to the margin, because the Americans have no sales tax to pay, and cost of distribution in this country is considerable. Realization of these circumstances no doubt had much to do with Mr. Coote's failure to convince a majority of the House of Commons that tariff reduction would increase sales volume and maintain the customs revenue; in fact, he himself proposed an increased excise tax on all cars.

The need for revenue to meet the present scale of expenditure at Ottawa, burdensome as it may be upon the country, enables avowed tariff-for-revenue Liberals and free traders to vote with the protectionists wing in an instance such as that referred to, and still get out in an election campaign and rail against a protective tariff. They do not tell the people that some of the highest tariff schedules Canada has are maintained for revenue purposes, and, if based upon the protective principle only, might well be lower.

The Australian Elections

Canada is not alone in having an election campaign on its hands. Premier Bruce, of Australia, is appealing to the electors and they will vote on November 14. However, outside of the fact that there is an election in progress there is little in common in the two campaigns. In Australia during the process of time the names of the two old parties, Liberal and Conservative, have disappeared and Premier Bruce heads a party known as the Nationalists. The Opposition is Labor.

Fiscal questions do not form an issue in Australia for the simple reason that free traders have almost disappeared in the Commonwealth. All parties are united in favor of protection. The election, which is not due for several years, has been precipitated by the unofficial strike of the British seamen in Australian waters. The appeal is in the nature of a challenge to the Labor party.

Recently an amendment to the Immigration Act was put through the Australian House of Representatives providing for the deportation of any person who is not of Australian birth who has been found guilty of fomenting trouble. The bill had a stormy passage through the House because of the opposition of the Labor party.

After its passage there was a wholesale issuance of warrants for the arrest of 60 striking British seamen. This aroused such criticism of the Government that Premier Bruce decided on the dissolution of the House and an appeal to the country.

The Bruce Government succeeded the administration of William Morris Hughes after the last election, and the Bruce Cabinet was formed in February, 1923. Mr. Bruce himself is a colorful figure, a famous oarsman and athlete in his early days and a man with a brilliant overseas record, who only entered politics after the close of the war. He is still under 40 years of age.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Premier King is Canada's greatest premier.

Young "Bob" Lafollette seems to be just as strong in Wisconsin as his father.

Tommy Church has won 20 elections in Toronto. It will be a 20-to-1 shot that Tommy will win again on October 29.

Are the Progressive Conservatives willing to be led by the nose into the Liberal camp? This is the plan of Hon. Duncan Marshall.

Premier King says he wants some new Cabinet material from the West. Pretty rough on Hon. W. R. Motherwell and Hon. Charles Stewart.

Rt. Hon. Mackenzie tells the West that after the elections he will reorganize his Cabinet. This is a case of counting your chickens before they are hatched.

The day Premier King landed in Regina there was a snowstorm. It will be nothing to the blizzard of votes which will overwhelm him on October 29.

Hon. E. C. Drury, who is running as a Progressive candidate and undoubtedly has the blessing of the Liberal organization, is an out-and-out free trader.

The chief feature of this campaign is the number of Liberals who are openly announcing that they cannot any longer support Premier King.

Premier King says that after the election he will reorganize his Cabinet. The people will have something to say as to who will be in the next Cabinet and who will reorganize it.

Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King says it is a diabolical thing to drag in conscription as an issue. Mr. King had better read his Quebec lieutenants a lesson, for there is hardly a platform in Quebec where there are no efforts to revive the old conscription issue against Mr. Meighen and the Conservative party.

JUST FOLKS

BY EDGAR A. GUEST

THE BOSS PAYS A COMPLIMENT.

"Here's a task that's hard to do,
And I'm giving it to you,"
Said the boss one Monday morning
To a youth upon the floor.
And the youngster turned his head,
"Why to me?" he slowly said,
Let the hard job go to someone
Who has done such work before.

"How have I offended you,
That you give me this to do?
Why should I be made to labor
At a job I fear and dread?
No one else about the place
Has such irksome tasks to face.
There are lots of easy duties,
But you give me this instead!"

Said the boss: "Boy, don't complain
At a little extra pain,
Never whimper, never grumble
At the task that's hard to do.
Do not think that you're misused,
Being punished or abused.
Take the tough job with a chuckle,
It's a compliment to you."

"Now you mutter, and it's true,
This is difficult to do.
'Twill require long hours of patience,
Strength and courage you will need.
And you wonder why I ask
You to tackle such a task?
Well, it's just because I've watched you
And I think you can succeed."
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GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS

BIOGRAPHY.

All history is but the piecing together of the work of individual human beings.

Events are the pictures that these tireless, thinking workers produce. So that after all the great man, the hero, the substantial door becomes to us all, more or less, an artist.

Biography is the attempt to portray the technique of such an artist.

And so it is that works of biography grow in their hold upon all readers and those interested in the progress and growth of mankind.

Someone has said that the greatest art is that art which conceals art.

I like the biographical novel, especially when written by the man or woman portrayed. I have recently read a most absorbing book, "The Way of All Flesh," by Samuel Butler. A book which is Butler's masterpiece. You can see the very mud of his boots upon each page.

And in such books as "Far Away and Long Ago," by W. H. Hudson, and "The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft," by George Gissing, a beauty breathes that leaves the character human. You feel as if you are walking with him, have come in from a lovely long walk that has left you vibrant with feeling. Perhaps, also, in that other beautiful book by Hudson, "Green Mansions," you have more the story of the writer than in any of his absorbing books.

You get a most delicate nocturne from that little story, "Karma," by Lafcadio Hearn. Like a moving poem of love, it finally buries itself in the sunset and dies away, leaving but a mysterious memory behind.

There is nothing so fascinating as biography. I found in the letters of Secretary Lane and Walter Hines Page and William James something more than meat and drink to my mind. I found great character spread out right under the sun.

Every day life in this body lessens. We can save so many of our possible blunders by listening to the stories of others who have passed through more gates than we have.

There is much significance to any written story.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK

BY LEE PAPE

Last night I dreamed I was skating down the middle of the street on ice skates and making all the other fellows jellie all around them not knowing how to skate on ice skates without ice, and all of a sudden some man got in front of me holding his arms out to stop me and saying, Halt in the name of the bee.

Being a man with a big red nose with a bee sitting on the end of it, me thinking, G, I must think it's a flower. And I quick ducked and skated rite between the man's legs and he yelled after me, Now jest for that I'm going to tern on the wind.

And he took a big key out of his pocket and stuck it in the air and terned it, and the wind started to blow like anything and the first thing it blew off was my cap and the next was my coat and the next thing was my pants, me thinking, G, I better hurry up and skate home before anything else blows off.

Wich I started to, only by the time I got there the wind had blew everything off of me except one stocking and it was trying to blow that off, feeling cold as anything, and jest then the man with the bee on his nose came up in back of me saying, See, I told you, and now I'm going to take this bee off of my nose and put it on yours.

Wich he started to do, and I yelled like anything, and jest then I woke up and the wind was blowing on me from the window and everything and pop was picking the covers off the floor and putting them back on me saying, Wats the deer of all the hollering and wats the deer of kicking your covers off on a nite like this?

Me still being only part awake and saying, It must be bin the man with the bee on his nose, and pop saying, Yes, I suppose so, unless it was the woman with the giraffe behind her ear.

YOUTH AND AGE.

When I was young and looked abroad,
My heart's desires were two:
There was so much I thought to learn,
So much I meant to do.

Now in my simpler age I count
My heart's desire as one:
There is so much I would forget
Of all that I have done.

—Alexander Gray.

Flowers seem intended for the solace of ordinary humanity. Children love them; quiet, tender, contented, ordinary people love them as they grow; luxurious and disorderly people rejoice in them gathered. They are the cottage's treasure, and in the crowded town, mark as with a little broken fragment of rainbow, the window of the workers in whose heart rests the covenant of peace.—John Ruskin.

A THOUGHT.

Why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou eat at nought thy brother?—Romans xiv, 10.

Look with pity on a brother's fall.—J. Edmiston.



From London Opinion.

Canada's Industrial Future Threatened By King Govt.

R. R. Sparks, Ex-President of the Liberal Party in Ottawa and Head of the Canadian Association of Garment Manufacturers, Cannot Support Present Ministry

The opinion that no intelligent business man could regard the return of the King Government with anything but alarm is expressed in a letter received locally by Thomas W. Leair, of the W. R. Johnston Company, from R. R. Sparks, of Ottawa, until recently president of the Ottawa Association. The writer of the letter is known throughout Canada as a lifelong Liberal, a prominent business man, and especially as the president of the Canadian Association of Garment Manufacturers. He takes occasion in his letter to Mr. Leair to resign from the last-named position in order that he may be free to express himself, without any suggestion of misuse of office in what he considers to be a genuine crisis facing Canada.

In the course of his letter Mr. Sparks discusses Hon. Mr. King's fiscal policy stressing the mortality which it has produced in business since its introduction and declaring that its only result, if continued into the future, can be the unemployment of a lower wages for labor. "I have reached the conclusion after a great deal of thought," Mr. Sparks writes, "that the whole industrial future of Canada is threatened by the return of the King Government, and although I have always been associated with the Liberal party, I propose to take as active a part as I can in the defeat of the present administration."

The text of Mr. Sparks' letter reads:

Copy.
HEAD OFFICE,
Ottawa, Sept. 23, 1925.
"Mr. Thos. W. Leair,
Messrs. W. R. Johnston & Co., Ltd.,
120 Front Street East,
Toronto, Ont.

"Dear Mr. Leair:—The result of the election to be held on October 29 will have a far-reaching effect upon the whole industry of Canada. The clothing industry, which is the largest and most important in the country, may be the most seriously affected. I have reached the conclusion, after a great deal of thought, that the whole industrial future of Canada is threatened by the return of the King Government, and although I have always been associated with the Liberal party, I propose to take as active a part as I can in assisting to bring about the defeat of the present administration."

"The Canadian Association of Garment Manufacturers, of which I have the honor of being president, is, as you know, a strictly non-political organization. As there might be some objection to an officer of the association taking an active part in politics, I beg to tender, herewith, my resignation as president of this association to you as vice-president. I am also writing to Mr. C. N. Sommer, our vice-president in Montreal, to the same effect, and will be glad if you and he will make such arrangements as you think necessary to put this resignation into effect at once."

EFFECT OF PROPOSALS.

"I am quite at a loss to understand how any intelligent business man, with knowledge of the facts with which we are so familiar, could regard the return to power of the King Government with anything but alarm. Mr. King's proposals are absolutely and completely in opposition to the necessities of life. It is to be presumed that he proposes a reduction in the duties of clothing. The only effect this could have would be to close up Canadian clothing factories. It could not reduce the price at which Canadian-made clothing is sold, as the selling price of this commodity is absolutely and completely controlled by the keenest possible competition. Canadian-made clothing cannot be sold at any lower prices than it is to-day. In my judgment, neither a reduction in the tariff nor an increase in the tariff would affect the selling price of a single article of Canadian-made clothing. The only effect of a reduction in duties would be to displace Canadian-made clothing with the products of foreign countries. Even under the present tariff the Canadian market is being flooded with the products of the sweat shops of Europe and Japan. Having been intimately associated with all branches of the industry during the three years in which I have been president of this association, I am certain that not one manufacturer out of ten earned income from his capital investment. Last year more than 150 clothing manufacturers were forced to assign, and many closed up without going through the courts. Many of these failures were directly due to European competition. Thousands of our workers have already been thrown out of work as a result of the tariff reductions made by the present Government, and the lack of adequate regulations against dumping. Thousands more would suffer the same fate if further reductions are made."

"There are in all about 1,600 factories in the various branches of the industry, including both men's and women's wear. I am convinced that even a slight reduction in the one tariff item of 50 per cent, which covers most of the imported ready-to-wear clothing, would mean the closing up of at least half of the factories. The thousands of workers who would be thrown out of work would mean the unemployment of at least half of the factories. The thousands of workers who would be thrown out of work would mean the unemployment of at least half of the factories. The thousands of workers who would be thrown out of work would mean the unemployment of at least half of the factories."

"The only other alternative would be a general reduction in wages, which, for the same class of work, are from two to four times as high in this country as in the European countries, from which a flood of merchandise is now pouring into this market. There have been as you know, substantial reductions in wages in this industry during the last three years and I feel that further reductions are impossible. If the standard of living which our people are entitled to is maintained, any attempt to reduce wages in order that we could compete with such countries as Germany, France, England or Japan would require the repeal of the minimum wage laws in most of the provinces, which would be a very retrograde step."

"With these facts in mind I think it is the duty of each one of us to do his part in seeing that a Government is returned on October 29 which realizes the absolute necessity of safeguarding the industries of the country, and I would feel more free to do my part towards this end if relieved of the responsibility as an officer of this association. Yours truly,"

"R. J. SPARKS."

General Election Campaign Reports

THE CANADIAN PRESS is again reporting a Dominion general election for its co-operating members, all the daily newspapers of Canada. All these reports are printed in newspapers of every political persuasion editorially, and as every member has a share in the government of the organization, it stands clear that the reports of an election campaign put in The Canadian Press leased wires must be free from any partisan leaning. The following extracts from a circular just sent out by General Manager Livesey to all members, superintendents, editors and correspondents indicates how this is brought about:

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Dear Sir:—The covering the present political campaign please keep clearly before you that essential fact that The Canadian Press is strictly nonpartisan, serving through its newspaper members the entire Canadian public, and aiming in so doing to present a daily well-balanced picture of the progress of the campaign as it affects every party, whether Government or Opposition, Liberal, Progressive or Labor.

The Liberal, Conservative and Progressive leaders will be covered throughout the campaign by our Ottawa staff reporters. But there are also the provincial leaders, or the federal party leaders within the province. The task of covering these developments on our various bureaux, and arrangements should be made well in advance for reporting meetings of special importance either by bureau staff or by pre-arranged reports from our members written specially for Canadian Press. Thus, in the Maritime Provinces, questions recently to the effect of peculiar Maritime interest and as affecting the general campaign are apt to be threshed out anew on the platform. In Quebec much more attention than was the case in 1921 must be given to the party speakers addressing French language audiences, including a such leaders as Tremblay, Pothier, Mr. Sauve, Mr. Lapointe, Mr. Patenaude and others as they may enter the fray; and in this task aid of our French language members should be freely enlisted. In Ontario this bureau will pay special attention to the recognized leaders of Labor, to the Ontario Progressives, and to the provincial leaders. The Prairie West, with the added importance of a dozen new constituencies, the claims of the Progressives to hold the balance of power, and the vigorous challenge of both the old parties, offers a situation which will make special demands on the Winnipeg bureau with the co-operation of the Western membership. Finally, in British Columbia new issues have come to the front of interest throughout the country.

The above suggestions merely indicate the scope of the news picture presented by a general election. It is a moving panorama extending from coast to coast, and though it cannot be covered everywhere and at all times in detail, Canadian Press must aim to offer so comprehensive a report as shall present in turn all important aspects. With so great a mass of material available it is only by very careful balancing of the report as it goes on the various circuits that the proper perspective of the whole can be secured.

The following hints are the outcome of past experience.
Get your members to tip you off when they know an important speech is to be made and then, if possible, secure the text in advance, subject to usual revision.
Watch out for follow-up—reactions to the speech of a leader. Thus, the prime minister may make a statement in one part of the country to which obviously Mr. Meighen or Mr. Forke, widely separated, might like to reply immediately from their differing point of view, and it thus becomes the business of the bureau within whose territory each of these is campaigning to get touch and offer Canadian Press files for a statement.

With limited wordage a good summary is usually preferable to more lengthy quotations. But use "quotes" rather than a summary when a statement of some special significance, is present of controversy, or when a definite charge is laid against a political personage. And let it go at that. Do not try to say it all over again in a unnecessary lead.

The heat of a political campaign provides no immunity for a newspaper against libel actions. Platform speeches are not privileged. Things are then as charges then made, which are afterwards proved to be untrue. A plea of privilege must be watched closely. A plea of interest they are better left out of the report. In all such cases, when doubt, and then, if necessary, refer the matter to head office by wire for decision. But every individual, public or private, who has been attacked in public, and a report of which has been watched closely, a plea of interest they are better left out of the report. In all such cases, when doubt, and then, if necessary, refer the matter to head office by wire for decision. But every individual, public or private, who has been attacked in public, and a report of which has been watched closely, a plea of interest they are better left out of the report. 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