

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 29, 1910.

A DISCARDED ARGUMENT.

No point was more elaborated by the Grain Growers' deputation than the enormous cost of protection to the people of Canada. It was declared that in every case the manufacturers added the customs duty to their own prices. Taking the figures of importation and manufacture for the census year 1905, they showed that the imports of agricultural implements were \$1,593,914 and the duty thereon at 20 per cent, \$318,732, and they argued that as the value of implements manufactured for home use was \$10,491,919, therefore 20 per cent, thereof, or \$2,098,383 was exacted as a tax from the farmers by the manufacturers.

Applying the same methods to leather, boots and shoes, and cement, they concluded that in that one year on the four commodities mentioned above while \$889,168 was paid in duties to the Government, \$12,277,146 had gone to the manufacturers. On the total manufactured output in that year that calculated that \$150,000,000 had been paid by the Canadian consumers as a tax to the manufacturers over and above the prices that, but for the duty, would have been charged.

This argument dates back to the time when Sir Wilfrid and Sir Richard, the two doughty and well-salaried knights of the present cabinet, were wandering in the less comfortable and profitable paths of opposition. Then they invented this specious argument and enforced it with vigorous and eloquent oratory. In the House of Commons in 1895 Sir Richard declared:—"So far as a tariff is protective, the measure of taxation is the total consumption of imported goods plus the goods manufactured under that tariff in the country." "Where those goods are double the amount imported, the tax will take \$2 out of the pockets of the people for every \$1 it puts into the treasury; where the goods produced in the country under the tariff are four, or five, times the amount of goods imported, then you may fairly conclude that it will take four or five times more out of the pockets of the people than it puts into the treasury. We import cottons to the value of \$4,000,000 and manufacture to the value of \$10,000,000. This makes a total consumption of \$14,000,000, of which the revenue receives only \$1,140,000. As with cottons, so with all manner of articles."

Summing up his argument he came to his famous conclusion that in sixteen years ending 1895 the national policy had in this way taxed the people of Canada \$1,000,000,000! To this argument Sir Wilfrid gave full adhesion.

Fifteen years afterwards Sir Richard and Sir Wilfrid, now fourteen years in office, sit in the seats of power, and listen to a re-statement of their ancient and discarded arguments repeated with something of their own old time vehemence and force. Is it any wonder that these two gentlemen smiled inwardly at the efforts of the belated western logicians, such experienced sinners, long since happily converted from the error of their ways?

The whole argument, whether used in 1895 by Sir Wilfrid and Sir Richard, or in 1910 by the Grain Growers, is based on assumption and not on fact. Its absurdity is shown by the logical consequence that would follow from the calculation. If in one year 1905 the manufacturers taxed and received from the people as excess price for their products the sum of \$190,000,000, it would mean that for the fifteen years since 1895 the consumers of Canada had paid the manufacturers over and above the profit price of their products more than \$2,850,000,000. This would make the owners of 1,000 manufacturing establishments, if we had so many, the happy possessors of \$2,850,000 each, or of 2,000 establishments, if there were that many, each a millionaire.

"As with cottons so with all manner of articles," said Sir Richard. Suppose we take wheat. In 1895 60,000 bushels were imported and the duty paid at 15 cents per bushel was \$9,000. But the wheat produced for consumption in the country in 1895 was \$40,000,000 bushels. Therefore, by this logic the consumers of wheat in Canada paid \$6,000,000 as a tax to the wheat growers over and above what they would have paid had there been no tax on wheat!

The fact is that many considerations enter into the question of whether prices to the home consumer are heightened or lowered by the imposition of a protective duty. If there is no manufacture of the article in the country, the duty on imports will add that much to the price. If there is a brisk production of the commodity in the country home competition will bring down the price and will often cause the commodity to be sold for the same that it could be imported, less the duty.

In some cases the duty adds a part only to the cost of the home produced article. It is a common practice in Great Britain and the United States to quote a less price to the buyer from a protected country to enable him to meet the whole or a part of the duty imposed. The dumping act enacted by the present Government proves the prevalence of such a practice, and is intended to prevent or offset it.

The Grain Growers made a mistake in picking up this old chestnut thrown aside in 1896 by the Liberal party. What that party sought, coherent and Dominion wide could not make a mistake and has since discarded, is not likely to prove effective as the weapon of the relatively small band of Western Grain Growers.

"WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THE MONEY?"

It is entirely characteristic of the Times as an organ of the local Opposition that on noting the Hazen Government's satisfactory statement of the finances of the province, as embodied in the Auditor General's report, it should propound the question, "What did they do with the money?"

That the organ of a gang of spendthrifts who wasted the resources of the province on their friends and supporters, winked at all kinds of mal-practices in the collection of revenue, and allowed the roads and bridges to go to rack and ruin, should fail to grasp the fact that there can be such a thing as an honest administration in provincial affairs, is not difficult of comprehension.

The Times offers no criticism worthy of the name, but darkly hints that the Auditor General's report does not tell the whole story. "Diligent inquiry" it adds, "will discover items of expenditure that will make the boasted surplus fade away and disappear."

Mr. Clifford Robinson and his friends in the role of watch dogs of the treasury will present a new and a diverting form of entertainment. Should Mr. Robinson need any pointers we doubt not his friend and former colleague, Mr. Pugsley, could supply them. None knows better than the Ex-Attorney General of the province the most approved methods of concealing over-drafts in suspense accounts. And when it comes to detecting any juggling with the people's money the Leader of the Opposition could have no better tutor than a magician who, although the finances of the Central Railway passed under his control, professes to be unable to account for the disappearance of \$130,000 into thin air!

All of which suggests that the Times would be better employed in directing its inquiries among its own particular friends. What did THEY do with the money?

WHEN THE UPPER BERTH IS LOWER.

The announcement that the Pullman Company will make a reduction of 20 per cent. in its prices for all upper berths in Canada on the Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific lines, and that Canadian companies generally will probably make an equal concession in the near future, will be hailed with delight by the travelling public. When the principle of a lower price for an upper berth is established for all time it will be the occasion of especial and universal joy.

It must be admitted, however, that the change will cause the disappearance of many of our most familiar travelling characters. It is to be feared, for instance, that we shall never see again the large two-tided individual who "can never sleep a wink in an upper berth." Along with him will go the important person who "must have a lower or nothing, sir," and we may even miss the woman who "can't bear to climb up into the horrid thing."

In their places will come a new brand of travellers. We shall have the calculators, who, after studying the new rate card, will declare that he "must have the fresher air which is characteristic of the upper berth." We shall make the acquaintance of the travelling man who has just discovered that he sleeps better "because of the rocking motion of an upper;" and we shall encounter the lady who thinks a lower berth "not sufficiently retired."

In other words there will be once more a human and humorous illustration of the vast influence of economic law upon individual thought and action. It will be revealed to the world in a long succession of top-heavy Pullmans swinging along through the night with every low priced "upper" filled, and the more expensive "lows" vacant.

THE STORAGE BATTERY.

The city of Toronto recently requisitioned one of Edison's new storage batteries for lighting purposes on Charles street and observers united in declaring that the illumination was striking and beautiful. It proved not only its efficiency, says the Toronto World, but it opened up a new chapter in the Book of Public Power for the People.

Proceeding the World says:—"Public power through the agency of the Edison Storage Battery can be taken to the home, to the hamlet, far from the madding crowd, days' journey from transmission lines and all their fancied dangers. A York Township farmer can team his load of hay into the city and return home with a charged battery that will run his threshing outfit and light his house. With the same battery his boy can saw the cordwood, his wife milk the cows and the hired man run the elder-mill."

The storage battery may prove a blessing to the rural parts of the Dominion. But if all these labor-saving devices are coming with a rush, the people of Canada will have barely time to figure out what their mission in life will be before the storage battery, charged with cheap power, proceeds to run the threshing machine, saw the cordwood, milk the cows and attend to numerous other functions now performed by mortal man.

Current Comment

(Sackville Post.)

A well-known Fredericton lawyer recently brought suit against James Crockett, manager of the Gleaner newspaper of that city. After hearing all the evidence, the magistrate dismissed the case, and now the Mail, the organ of the Liberals in that city, declares that the magistrate's decision is a "judicial scandal" and that the Hazen Government is responsible for it. If the heavens should fall, some of Mr. Hazen's political opponents would blame him or his government for the disaster.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The Liberal gathering at St. Cessaire, in Ronville, on Saturday was the first of Minister Brodeur's meetings for the educating of the Quebec people on the questions of the navy. It is to be feared that the speeches in which opponents of the naval scheme were described as "snivellers," "know-nothings" and "liars" will lead the people to the conclusion that the influence of nautical life upon the language is not good.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

A Toronto scavenger man found 2,200 pieces of silverware and china in the waste kitchen stuff he took from the King Edward hotel. He kept the stuff, and when charged with theft, excused himself on the plea that he had no idea he should have taken it back. Some men seem to have particularly accommodating consciences on occasion.

(Bangor News.)

Dr. Wiley thinks it will be much better to kill the boys on the football field than to permit them to grow up as mollycoddies. We assume that Dr. Wiley's boys are safely through football, if he happens to be the father of any.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREAT FOR SAILORS

450 Comfort Bags Distributed and Two Large Trees Stripped for Benefit of Those Present—Fine Programme

The Seamen's Institute was crowded to the doors last evening, when the management gave their annual Christmas entertainment to the men of the sea. On each wing of the large platform there was a big Christmas tree decorated in a gorgeous manner, and in the center was a pile of comfort bags of all patterns and colors. Banners on the walls, streamers of bunting, and wreaths of evergreen gave an additional note of festivity to the scene. An excellent programme of entertaining was carried out, and there were brief speeches by Recorder Baxter and Rev. R. A. Armstrong; choruses by the mariners, coffee and cakes, and a distribution of comfort bags.

Recorder Baxter presided, and the programme was as follows: Piano Duet, Miss Gilchrist and Miss Bullock; solo, Robert Seely; reading, Miss Bartlett; solo, Miss Smith; violin solo, Mrs. Dempster; reading, C. L. Wise; solo, Frank Smith.

The Christmas Message. Rev. R. A. Armstrong then gave a brief address, remarking that it had been reported that he had delivered his address to the seamen on the previous evening, he went on to say that Christmas had its message for the humble as well as for those who lived in high places. In fact it was the shepherds, a humble class of men, often looked down upon, though King David and many great men were shepherds at one time, who first heard the Christmas message and the singing of the angels announcing the birth of the Christ child.

He hoped the sailors would remember that Christ died for them as well as for landsmen, and try to serve Him by living upright and Christian lives. Recorder Baxter then said a few words. He spoke of the good work being done by the Seamen's Mission and its president, R. Morton Smith, and expressed the opinion that the society would in a few years need one of the largest buildings in the city in order to provide adequate accommodation for the seamen calling at this port. The recorder observed that he had often been disappointed with many of the men present—coming across in the ferry boat. Also he had often listened with pleasure to the jolly voices of the crews of the shipping in the harbor, and he thought that, like the souls of Kipling's jolly, jolly mariners they would sooner sing some of their sea songs than listen to him.

Afterwards, while the ladies distributed refreshments and 450 comfort bags or sailor's house-wives, the men sang a number of seasonal, and the proceedings were brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.

APOHAQUI.

Apoahqui, N. B., Dec. 28.—Christmas passed off very quietly in this village, the absence of sleighing and skating affording little amusement for the young people. The joy of giving was in evidence to a greater extent than ever before. The postman, who reported a record amount of mail matter through his office.

C. B. McCreedy was host to his three sons, Alfred E. McCreedy, editor of the New-Hill Post, who was accompanied by his wife and son, and Beverly and Henry McCreedy, of Boston.

D. A. Hewitt, Dominion Government architect, who is in charge of the new post office building at Halifax, spent Christmas as the guest of Horley S. Jones.

Mrs. McWilliams of Harcourt, Kent county, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Humphrey.

Geo. Ellison, Mrs. Ellison and daughter, Flora, spent Christmas at Rothesay, the guests of W. T. Peters and Mrs. Peters.

W. T. Little, proprietor of the School of Telegraphy, Fredericton, with his wife and daughter, spent Christmas with his wife and daughter, at Chatham yesterday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Campbell's brother, the late Warren C. Winslow.

Mrs. M. Penwick left for Fredericton last week to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Vanwart. Miss Greta Hollett, of Sussex, spent the holiday with her sister, Mrs. W. A. Jones.

Irvine MacLaren and Mr. Wilson of Upland, were in the village yesterday. John W. Atuley and wife spent Christmas in Pictou, guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. McLeod.

Aaron Gamblin, of St. John, is visiting his brother, I. P. Gamblin, for a few days. Robert Boyley of Elgin, was the guest of relatives here for Christmas. E. C. Weyman, barrister, St. John, spent Christmas with his parents, C. W. and Mrs. Weyman.

The lumber cut in this vicinity will be about an average one. Jones Brothers will have their usual drive in the Millstream. A large number of men passed through here yesterday and today, returning to their work at the lumber camps after their Christmas celebrations.

BARNESVILLE.

Barnesville, Dec. 27.—Miss Maud Curry, milliner for Jones Bros., Apoahqui and Miss Lillian D. Curry, of the Provincial Normal school are spending their holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Curry.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Titus and family of St. John spent the holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hastings. Miss Theresa McLeod arrived here last week from Boston and will spend a month with her parents.

The lumbermen who came out of the woods to spend Christmas are leaving today for their work. Miss Emma Kirkpatrick, teacher of Mace Bay and Miss Bessie Kirkpatrick, who has been teaching at Musquash will take up their work after holidays at Pennfield, Charlotte county.

They are both former teachers here and their many friends are glad to have them amongst them for a short time. They are guests of their sister, Mrs. J. Leonard Steele. Mr. and Mrs. Brunswick Thompson are spending some time in Willow evening.

Starting The Silver Set

Choosing a design in silverware that delights because of its beauty and attractiveness, and then adding to it as a circumstance permit, until the set is complete, is one of woman's greatest pleasures in home making. Why not start your set with spoons or forks? We are showing now some patterns of great attractiveness that you can be sure will be continued for years to come. We will be glad to show you designs and assist in making selections. You will find prices are most moderate.

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The very choicest P. E. Island and Buctouche for Christmas, at

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

Grove, the guests of Mr. Thompson's parents. Our popular teacher Miss Ethel Kelly has sent in her resignation much to the regret of the rate payers. Miss Florence Vail of St. Martins, will return to her school No. 2 Primrose.

Mrs. James Armstrong and little son, who has been spending the last month in Avonmore, are expected home this week. Miss Grace Allaby, who has been here professionally for the last two months, returned to her home in Central Norton on Saturday.

Presentation to Pastor. At the close of the weekly prayer meeting in Waterloo street Baptist church, last evening, Rev. F. H. Wentworth was presented with a handsome brass urn, the occasion being the pastor's birthday. J. S. Smith, clerk of the church, made the presentation on behalf of the congregation. Mr. Wentworth responded in a fitting manner.

U. N. B. vs. Y. M. C. A. A basketball team chosen from the U. N. B. students who are in town for the holidays, will play a picked team from the intermediate league in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium on Saturday evening.

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BO

Maxwell--On Decem

wife of J. Herber

street, a son.

DIE

Dunlop--Martha A.

Joseph A. Dunlop

Funeral from her

Coburg street, at

day, the 29th inst.

request.

Walker--At 251 R

Dec. 27th, 1910,

late of Oxford, E

wife