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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1910.

THE NEW CABINET.

It will, we imagine, be quite frankly conceded that Premier Meighen has made an excellent selection in the personnel of his new colleagues. They are all of them more or less well known in the public life of the country, and all have earned reputations which give great promise for the future. They may not all be Macdonalds, or Mowats, or Lauriers' nor can it perhaps be said that they comprise a government of all the talents; but taken as a whole the new cabinet is made up of men of more than average parliamentary and executive ability.

Tried ministers of whose ability the country has had ample proof remain in the persons of Sir Henry Drayton, as Minister of Finance; Mr. Guthrie, Militia and Defence; Mr. McCurdy, Public Works; Mr. Tolmie, Agriculture, and some others; and they, together with the new members, may fairly be counted on to do yeoman service for the party in the forthcoming struggle.

One regrets to see the passing of such a militant and aggressive old warhorse as Sir George Foster from the more strenuous participation in the political field, but it would be foolish to assume that his translation to the more serene atmosphere of the Senate will at all interfere with his active interest in public affairs. He has been in the game too long, and has been too prominently engaged in parliamentary life to be able to sit quiet and let others do it all. Of the other lesser lights who are to disappear from the government benches, Messrs. Calder, Reed, Doherty and Wigmore, the two former also go to the Senate, and places have yet to be found for the others.

The decks are now about to be cleared for the political fight that dissolution will bring on. It is not going to be a walk-over for any party, in fact it promises to be as bitter a struggle as the country has seen for many years. Mr. Meighen and his colleagues and their followers, however, will face the electors with a programme consisting of policies that must commend themselves to the more thoughtful and serious minded element among the people.

STILL PUSSYFOOTING

A perusal of the report of the Hon. Mackenzie King's speech at Toronto Tuesday night discloses the fact that he is still as industriously engaged as ever at his old dishonest job of pussyfooting on the tariff. This job was begun in 1919 when the so-called National Liberal Convention, anxious to avoid a complete debacle in the West without courting disaster in the East, manufactured a formidable looking resolution, which called for abolition or reduction of duties on a list of eighteen articles, eleven of which were already free. Even at that the plank was considered dangerous in the East, and Mr. Fielding rushed in to assure the country that political, like Pullman, platforms were "merely made to go in on," and that consequently the Liberal tariff plank must be accepted "with interpretations and reservations." Since then Mr. King has adopted the principle of a "tariff for revenue" only, and instead of specific declarations for actual tariff reductions, as outlined at the 1919 convention, now puts forward a few benign Cobdenite professions, which he obscures by a rhetorical fog.

The West having deserted him for Mr. Crerar, and the East in no mood for Free Trade, under whatsoever disguise he may offer it, Mr. King finds himself in danger of falling between two stools. The most straightforward course for him to adopt would have been to openly champion the policy which his party stood by in office for fifteen years; but honesty, apparently, is foreign to Mr. King's make-up, so while coming back to Protection to suit Eastern interests and preaching a policy that differs from that of the Meighen Ministry in matters of detail only, he is constrained to camouflage his intentions by describing his policy as "a tariff of revenue only."

But there is another feature to be taken into account. Accompanying Mr. King on the platform at Toronto was the Hon. W. S. Fielding, an older politician than Mr. King and more experienced in political campaigning. He made no attempt to camouflage the Free Trade tendencies of his party, for in the course of his remarks he is reported to have said that "the defeat of Reciprocity was the greatest "crime ever committed against this "country." Reciprocity being as our readers are well aware a virtual free trade compact with the United States. And then added Mr. Fielding: "No "man need apologize for being a Free "Trader. Free Trade is part of the "divine order of things and needs "no apology, but it is not feasible to "adopt it under present conditions."

Which, being interpreted, means that he would adopt it if he dared.

So here we have the pronouncements of the two leaders of the Liberal party, one an avowed Free Trader, the other a Liberal Protectionist in the character of a tariff reformer, and to reconcile the two is an almost impossible task. Just where are Mr. King and his party at?

Mr. King referred to several other matters, with regard to which space prevents us from more than noticing now. He expressed the view that the people of Canada "had had enough of Coalitions." Was it for this reason that Mr. King gave up the task of endeavoring to get the Farmer party to unite with him?

As to the Government's dealings with the returned soldiers, who gave Mr. King any mandate to speak for them? If all the young men in Canada had been of the same mind and calibre as Mr. King, there would not have been any returned soldiers at all, for there would have been none who ever went away.

Mr. King did not put forward in the whole course of his speech one single argument to support his contention that the Meighen Government is not worthy of the support of the people.

A POLICY OF "HEDGE."

The policies laid down in both Mr. King's and Mr. Fielding's speeches at Toronto on Tuesday do not at all agree with the platform of the Liberal party which was adopted at the Liberal Convention held at Ottawa in 1919, and which platform the party there and then solemnly pledged itself to implement "when returned to power." Subsequent events have led the Liberal leaders to "hedge" with regard to this platform but the Canadian people must not be fooled or betrayed by this cynical insult to their intelligence. They cannot afford to risk their economic prosperity to the promises and vagaries of such men. They must judge the Liberal party by its platform and by its platform alone.

Upon the tariff that platform says:

That to these ends, wheat, wheat flour and all products of wheat; the principle articles of food; farm implements and machinery; farm tractors, mining, flour and sawmill machinery and repair parts thereof; rough and partly dressed lumber; gasoline, illuminating, lubricating and fuel oils; nets, net-twines and fishermen's equipments, cement and fertilizers, should be free from Customs duties, as well as the raw material entering into the same.

That a revision downwards of the tariff should be made whereby substantial reductions should be effected in the duties on wearing apparel and footwear, and on other articles of general consumption (other than luxuries), as well as on the raw material entering into the manufacture of the same.

That the British preference be increased to 50 per cent. of the general tariff.

This platform, put into force, would be destructive of Canadian industry. It would mean absolute free trade in all products of the farm, the forest and the sea; it would wipe out all duties on manufactured foodstuffs, it would strike at industries whose loss would be catastrophic; it would, to all intents and purposes, as well as in its consequences, be as disastrous as absolute Free Trade.

Hence it is that the public today must judge the Liberal party by its platform and not by the promises of any of its leaders. Pussyfooting interpretations and excuses of dishonest politicians must be torn aside, and this test applied to Mr. King: If you mean to put your platform into effect, are you safe enough to be Premier of Canada? If you don't mean to put it into effect, are you honest enough to be Premier of Canada?

The Globe appears to labor under the impression that the remarks in these columns Yesterday regarding Mr. McRaye's address were called forth by an article which we are informed, appeared in The Globe on Tuesday afternoon. It may interest our contemporary to know that we were not aware at the time that The Globe had had anything to say on the subject, having by some mischance failed to see Tuesday's issue of that paper, nor have we even yet read or seen what The Globe had to say on that occasion. Our article was called forth by some very pointed remarks, adversely criticising Mr. McRaye, that were made by a fellow citizen whom we met on the street; we were unaware then that The Globe had referred to the matter at all.

London Free Press.—"If names "count for anything Hon. J. B. M. "Baxter should be an addition to the "Meighen Cabinet. J. B. M. stands for "John Babington Macaulay." He is, friends, quite an addition.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Application of a Principle.

It is of particular interest just now to note the views of Otto H. Kahn, one of the leading banking authorities of the United States, on the protective principle. Returning from an extended trip abroad, he is quoted as saying:

I am in favor of the principle of a protective tariff for America to the extent that its application is necessary to preserve our industries and the American standard of wages and living. But that principle can no longer be applied with safety and advantage to the country and with fairness to the consumer in the old-fashioned, somewhat haphazard and sometimes extreme way.

In order to use the capacity of our industrial plants and to give full employment to our workers, we must make every effort to hold our own in the markets of teh world. And that is only possible if the cost of production can be brought into line with existing conditions. To that end, the prerequisite are thatt waste and slipshod methods of business be eliminated, costs brought down, the "get rich quick and easy" period considered definitely at an end, and that both capital and labor recognize the need of adjusting their respective compensation to the circumstances which the country has to meet.

His remarks on the application of the principle and method which can best operate beneficially are worth pondering by both our business men and the workers on this side of the line.—Montreal Herald.

Getting Out of the Hole.

When a man says he would buy a wheelbarrow or a necktie or a new pipe if wheelbarrows or neckties or new pipes were cheaper he is getting at the roots of the present business depression. If the man who makes pipes cannot sell them, that is his funeral, for it is possible that people can get along without them. If a citizen cannot get his house painted because he does not think he can afford to pay for the paint and the painting, that is the funeral of the paint-maker and the painter. No argument can be advanced to the contrary. The same thing works through the whole business and necessities of life. And with these it is possible for the industrial fabric, with an exception in the case of the consumption to fluctuate as a result of prices. Too high a price means lower consumption.

There can be tearing of hair about the situation, but it will avail nothing. A little plain thinking all around is what is needed. The country is in a hole and it will have to crawl out. Jerking at the boot-tops will not lift a pound.—Winnipeg Free Press.

A Struggle of Endurance.

Constantine's private war has been ill-advised from the beginning. Early success might have redeemed it and compelled attention from the Allies, even though the King himself would have remained an odious figure in Allied eyes. Now, as it drags on wearily, it has many indications of being what was first predicted—a foolhardy effort to satisfy the personal ambition of a vain, unscrupulous ruler.—Providence Journal.

A BIT OF VERSE

PICTURES.

"Some like pictures o' women" (said
Bill) "an' some likes 'orses best,"
As he fitted a pair of fancy shackles
on to his old sea-chest;
"But I like pictures of ships" (said
he), "an' you can keep the rest.
"An' if I was a ruddy millionaire with
dollars to burn that way,
Instead of a dead-broke sailorman as
never saves his pay,
I'd go to some big paintin' guy, an'
this is what I'd say:—

"'Paint me The Cutty Sark' (I'd say),
'or the old Thermopylae,
Or The Star of Peace as I sailed in
once in my young days at sea,
Shipshape an' Blackwall fashion too,
as a clipper ought to be.

"'An' you might do 'er outward bound,
with a sky full o' clouds,
An' the tug just droppin' astern an'
guils flyin' in crowds,
An' the decks shiny-wet with rain an'
wind shakin' the shrouds.

"'Or else racin' up Channel with a
sou'-wester blowin',
Stuns'ls set aloft and alow an' a hoist
o' flags showin',
An' a white bone between her teeth,
so 's you can see she's goin'.

"'Or you might do 'er off Cape Stiff
in the 'igh latitudes yonder,
With her main-deck a smother of
white an' her lee-rail dipping
under,
And the big greybeards drivin' by an'
breakin' aboard like thunder.

"'Or I'd like old Tuskar somewhere
around—or Sydney 'eads, maybe,
Or Bar Light, or the Tail o' the Bank,
or a glimpse o' Circular Quay,
Or a junk or two, if she's tradin'
East, to show its' the China Sea.

"'Nor I don't want no dabs o' paint
as you can't tell what they are,
Whether they 're shadders or fellers'
faces or blocks or blobs o' tar,
But I want gear as looks like gear an'
a spar that 's like a spar.

"'An' I don't care if it 's North or
South, the Trades or the China
Sea,
Shortened down or everythin' set,
close-hauled or runnin' free;
You paint me a ship as is like a ship
an' that 'll do for me."

C. F. S.

THE LAUGH LINE

The archbishop had preached a fine sermon on married life and its beauties. Two Irishwomen were heard coming out of church commenting on the address.

"'Tis a fine sermon his riverence gave," said one to the other.

"It is," was the quick reply, "and I wish I knew as little about the matter as he does."—Life.

Employer—"Young man, I will pay you to keep your eyes open while you are in the office."

Office Boy—"Yes, sir; that's just what your wife told me when she came in this morning and saw a pretty stenographer you have."—Boston Transcript.

"Here's an interesting contribution to the literature of the day."

"What is it?"

"The memoirs of a former pugilistic champion."

"What makes his book extraordinary?"

"He acknowledges he was licked by a better man."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Poet—"The burglars have been in!"

Artist—"Yes, what happened?"

Poet—"Searched my room and then gave me a shilling."—Sunday Bulletin.

Retired Dealer in Pork (inspecting picture of pig)—"How much do you want for it?"

Artist—"Fifty pounds."

Retired Dealer—"Right-o. Now could you do one of me in a reclining position to match?"—Punch.

Visiting Curate—"Mandy, is it necessary for you to leave all these young children at home and go out to cook?"

Mandy—"Yes, sir; the doctor says I needs a rest."—Detroit News.

The East Indian python is capable of swallowing a live pig.

Only one species of reptile, a lizard, is found in the Azores.

Snakes rarely die in daylight, but usually between nightfall and midnight.

Cobra, crotalids and bottraps are regarded as the most poisonous of snakes.

DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE.

S. S. St. Mary, which sailed on Monday night for Havana with a cargo of potatoes, developed engine trouble shortly after passing the island and had to return to port. The trouble was repaired and she sailed last evening. Furness, Withy and Co. are local agents.

The English adder or viper is the only poisonous snake found in England.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My sister Gladdis made cheese cake today, being a all rite looking cheese cake and nobody wouldent of had eny aispicions agenst it if they hadent of knew Gladdis made it, and ma took a little peece on her plate like somebody trying to be polite and started to give a big peece to pop, and pop sed. No thanks, theres a claws in my life insurants policy about taking unnecessary risks, no thanks, haw haw haw.

Now father, I think youre too meen for werds, you see Im eating a peece, dont you? sed Gladdis.

You have no family depending on you, haw haw, sed pop, and I sed, I'll take a hunk, I aint afraid to take a chance.

Its the young that win the wars, haw haw, sed pop. And I ate 3 big slices, tasting pritty good considering who made it, and after suppir I almost had a stummick ake but not quite, and I went up to Gladdises room and she was in there reeding a book with her hat on and waiting for Mr. Parkins to ring the bell, and I sed, Hay Gladdis, I got a stummick ake.

"Well, am I a docter? sed Gladdis, and I sed, No but it was your cheese cake, shall I go down and tell pop about it, Gladdis?

If you think it will give him eny plezzure, sed Gladdis, and I sed, It will give him plezzure all rite, jest wait till he heers about me getting a stummick ake after I ate 3 slices of your cheese cake, he'll laff every time he sees you for about 6 yers.

Dont you dare tell father enything of the kind, dont you dare, sed Gladdis, and I sed, Well gosh, I aint going to wawk erround with a stummick ake all to myself jest because you made the cheese cake, and she sed, Are you trying to blackmale me?

No, Im jest telling you about my stummick ake, I sed, and she sed, O, how thawtfill of you, and I sippose if I gave you a dime you wouldent have eny stummick ake, would you? and I sed, How can I tell? It mite be sutch a serprize the stummick ake mite go away. How can I tell?

Hear, you pest, sed Gladdis. And she gave me a dime and I bawt a 10 cent cinnamin bun and ate it.

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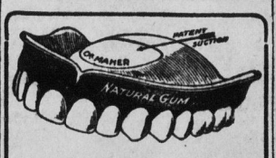

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