

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1911

## The Evening Times and Star

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## FARMING CONDITIONS

A writer in November Lippincott's declares that in the United States the movement away from the eastern farms to the great cities has been checked, and that hereafter farming will steadily grow more in favor. The following four reasons for the change are given:—

- 1—There are no longer cheap or free western lands to compete.
- 2—The people are learning agriculture so that farming bids fair to become the most profitable of businesses.
- 3—The trolley, the bicycle, the motor, the telephone, the rural free delivery are bringing the farmer into touch with the great world, his intelligence and business position are improved and improving.
- 4—Intensive agriculture and the high prices of farm products are making it profitable as well as pleasant for the boy to stay on the farm. Today the young man and the young woman who has brains find the land the surest and best place to get a competence.

Possibly this writer's statement is still too sweeping, but if so it only anticipates conditions that are in process of realization. The people of eastern Canada will be slower in getting the benefits of such a change, because there will be for a considerable period the competition of free western lands and the further handicap of a far more limited market than that enjoyed by the American farmer. Free access to a larger market would have to some extent offset the western free land competition, but when it was offered to the people it was rejected.

## CANVASSING THE WOMEN

The Socialists and the suffragettes are very much in the public eye in the city of Los Angeles. At the primary, in the contest for mayor, the Socialist candidate polled the largest vote, but did not get a majority over all. He must therefore run another election, with the next highest candidate as his opponent. The latter is the candidate of what is called the "Good Government" party. There were five candidates in the primary. Harrison, Socialist, got 29,157 votes; and Alexander, "Good Government," 16,790. In the final contest between Harrison and Alexander, on Dec. 5th, much will depend upon what the women do. It is expected that 40,000 of them will have been registered as voters before the election takes place. The Socialists claim that 40 per cent of the working women will vote for their candidate, and to offset this possibility the "Good Government" people are conducting a house to house canvass of the residential districts, to get all the women who are not classed as "working women," also registered.

## TARIFF REVISION

Mr. Borden in Halifax and Mr. White, the new finance minister, in Lansdowne, Ont., made some observations on Thursday evening on the subject of tariff revision. Mr. Borden spoke in general terms, merely stating that the government would establish a permanent tariff commission, which would "ascertain all necessary facts in connection with the conditions and cost of production, and advise as to the conclusion which ought to be drawn from the facts so ascertained."

This commission, it is needless to say, will represent the manufacturers and high tariff advocates. It will simply "advise," and an obedient party machine in parliament will not doubt do the rest.

Hon. Mr. White made it perfectly clear in his remarks that a great deal of attention is to be given to tariff matters by the new government. After remarking that changes in the tariff in times of national prosperity should not be lightly considered, and that stability was necessary in the interests of manufacturers and others, Mr. White continued:—

"I think I am safe in saying that there is in contemplation no immediate change without the most careful enquiry, without the just consideration of the claims of all who may be interested, producer and consumer alike. I do not mean to say that the tariff must remain as something fixed, stereotyped or crystallized. The interests of the community as a whole must always be before us. It will be the duty of the government to take such measures as may be necessary to remedy any inequitable or unjust advantage enjoyed by trusts and combines. In other words, my conception is that while stability of tariff should be a chief consideration in times of such prosperity as we now enjoy, we must make it the subject of constant study in order that, as necessity arises it, may be modified to meet the changing conditions of a constantly changing country."

On its face this appears to be a general statement to which no reasonable objection could be made; but, when we remember that it is made by a member of a government which must pay its debt to the manufacturers, the real meaning becomes clear. The "trusts and combines" will not be at all disturbed by the reference to them. The "constant study" will carefully avoid those phases of the tariff question which are of most interest to the consumer. The modifications of the tariff will be made with scrupulous regard for the fat dividends of the manufacturers. The tariff commission in its search for facts will know in advance what facts to discover and what to ignore. The country has committed itself to a high tariff policy, and must take what is offered.

## NIGHT SCHOOLS

It has been suggested at a meeting of the council of the Board of Trade that night classes might be conducted in the public schools, to give technical instruction to young men engaged in trades and desirous of increasing their knowledge and efficiency.

To make such classes of real benefit it would be necessary to provide suitable apparatus and practical teachers. It is really a large question, but one that deserves the most serious attention. Technical evening schools in some cities are of great benefit, and doing a most valuable work. In Canada too little attention is given to this branch of education, and we may hope that after the Royal Commission has sent in its report there will be a movement on the part of federal, provincial and municipal authorities to improve the conditions.

The history of night schools in St. John has not been encouraging. Several attempts have been made to establish winter classes, but with rather poor results. If now an effort were made, backed by such an organization as the board of trade, the conditions would be more favorable and no doubt better results would be obtained. Sooner or later the city must be provided with such schools, if the efficiency of its workers is to be properly developed.

## CHAMP CLARK AND OTHERS

Champ Clark asserts that nine-tenths of the people of the United States favor the annexation of Canada. Perhaps they do. Canada is worth having. But the nine-tenths, with the exception of Champ Clark and a few more libeled political demagogues, have too keen a sense of what is due to themselves and a friendly neighbor, to give any expression to such views. There was a time, when the American people had more self-complacency than they at present possess, when they could not understand why Canada should not yearn to be taken under the wing of the great and glorious bird of freedom; but they have during the past quarter of a century experienced a shock of self-revelation, and also learned to make more accurate comparisons between themselves and others, with the result that they can better appreciate the devotion of the Canadian people to their own institutions. Even Champ Clark has not had the temerity to say that Canadians would favor annexation.

Unfortunately, however, Canada cannot afford to be too severe in her criticism of Champ Clark. There were Canadian politicians and newspapers in the late federal election campaign which wantonly and persistently insulted the American people. It is to the credit of the latter that they treated these appeals to prejudice with good-natured contempt. We may fairly do the same with the vapors of Mr. Champ Clark.

## BOLTED WITH THE TIPS

Milwaukee, Nov. 4.—It has developed that the women waiters at the banquet given to President Taft last week collected \$85 in tips by passing plates among the guests, but that before they had distributed the money a man demanded that it be turned over to him, to be evenly disbursed among all those employed at the dinner.

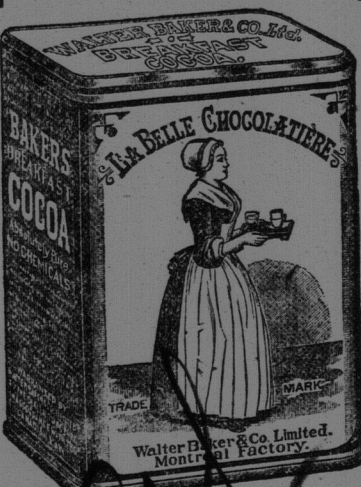
The man, who disappeared with the money, was one of the waiters, the women say, but they do not know who he is and the police are trying to locate him.

She.—"And knowing my sentiments on the subject, did that odious Mr. Binks insult you by offering you a drink?" He.—"That's what Mr. Binks did." She.—"And how did you resent it?" He (meekly)—"I swallowed the insult."

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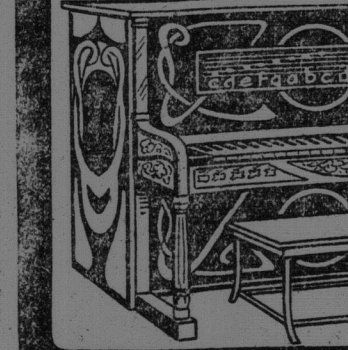
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