

The Genesis of the Pork Barrel

By W. W. SMITH

Now it came to pass in those days when the voice of the auto siren and of Billy Sunday were not heard in the land, that men came from Britain and from the land of France and from yet other lands afar off and dwelt within the coasts of Canada.

And they and their children and their children's children dwelt in the land and possessed it after the colonization companies had been bought off, after many score years of great toil. And the people worshipped at the altar of the god which is called Natural Resources.

But it was so that, in the fullness of time, the people forgot the god of their fathers and went worrying after the gods of other nations, even after that one which is called High Tariff. And when the rulers of the land saw this they laughed within their hearts, for they were exceeding glad.

And to please the people, and moreover their own hearts, they builded a god, even High Tariff, and set it up within their coasts. And the frame thereof was of seasoned oak and the veneer of beaten brass, so that it stands to this day; for in those days there was not any manner of patronage system whatsoever in public works.

And they set the god up in their midst so that all who entered into the land should bow their heads to the image and sacrifice thereto day and night.

And it was so that as often as a citizen of the land would go to the city, which is called Toronto, to buy for himself a shirt of the value of so many measures of wheat, he must needs deliver up yet other measures as an offering. And when he did not possess the other measures he was wont to forego the shirt. And he wot not the reason of the high cost of his living, so that he said within his heart, "The merchant is a crook." And it came to be a saying in the land that the middle-man must go.

And people do like things in these days, for when one nation is at war with another and bread becometh exceedingly scarce, do they not break the windows of the shopkeeper and smite him with many bricks?

And the thing which they had set up found favor with the rulers, for they said among themselves: "Behold how the people pay much tribute into the treasury and wot not what they pay." And they laughed at the joke which they had made, for their hearts were light by reason of the easy forthcoming of the shekels.

And there were in the land in those days Infant Industries, which profited exceedingly by reason of the favor of the god High Tariff, so that they grew apace, like unto a civil service list. And in the fullness of time they spread themselves out over the land like unto a broody hen, and possessed it. And they also made as if they possessed the people and their rulers, and everything which was upon the face of the land and in the waters under the earth.

And it was so that a certain poor man whose name was legion dwelt in the land; and he had six sons and six daughters, and all of them were young and possessed of great appetites after the manner of their kind.

And as often as the poor man bought for his twelve children the sugar which they would eat he must needs pay into the treasury one penny for every pound. And at divers times they were wont to go exceedingly light on the sugar. And as often as he would buy hats for their heads and shoes for their feet he must needs pay tribute to the treasury; so that his tribute was many-fold that of the rich man who possessed no little ones save the poodle which his wife cherished in her bosom.

And the name of this thing is Tariff Taxation.

And when the poor man had heard the counsel of one Theodore, the son of Roosevelt, he laughed it to scorn, saying, "Behold, the rich man, my neighbor, is he not more fortunate than I, who have blessed my country by reason of my many children?" But he knew not that the tariff deals lightly with

the bachelor, the childless and the race suicide, for he was not a man of great learning.

And it came to pass that the Tariff found yet greater favor in the eyes of the rulers, for the treasury became full to overflowing, so that there was gold and to spare for all the wonderful works which they did.

For they spent of the gold of the treasury in many strange ways, and the fragments which fell from the counting table would fill twelve baskets every so often. And the dogs gathered of these fragments, and because they ran at the heels of their masters, the politicians, they were called heblers.

And at divers times the people tried to drive them away, even after the manner of Royal Commissions, but as a dog returneth to its vomit, so did the heblers return to gather of the fragments.

And these things are called graft, and the records of it fill the daily scrolls to overflowing, so that the chronicles of the law-making and of the war are crowded even into the south-west corner of the back page.

And the rulers built docks at Winnipeg and at Regina, where is Wascana Lake, and at Edmonton of Alberta, and lighthouses they built at divers places where there were found wells of water, and harbors dredged they at whatsoever city had a pull by reason of the sitting member. And they did many other wonderful works which were sorely needed, even as the family cow needeth a third horn in her business. And there was found a place in the national service for the son of every man who had failed not to mark his ballot aright and was not afflicted with the palsy, which is called shyness.

And by reason of the Tariff was there found gold for all of these things, and enough to spare for a new post office at Gopher Flats, when the people of that city shall have left off pursuing after a false party.

And the people were mightily pleased with these things which the rulers did for them, for they wist not that the price thereof came from their own scrip. But they made as if to believe that the rulers mint the money from the silvery phrases which proceed from the lips of the spellbinders which are at Ottawa.

And this manner of pleasing the people is likened unto a pork barrel, inasmuch as it holdeth much that is fat picking.

But there were not wanting men who saw evil in the Tariff and in the pork barrel which it begot. And these men raised their voices against these things, saying: "Behold how much treasure is wasted. Woe to those rulers who after the manner of Direct Taxation would take one-quarter fold of the sum which is now spent in riotous works. For there would ascend to the heavens a howl such as a man maketh when his favorite corn has been trodden underfoot of men, and the pork barrel would be broken asunder like unto a dry reed."

But the people hearkened not unto them, but clamored the louder for the post offices and the other public works which the barrel containeth.

And the rulers were wise unto their day, and they said within their hearts: "Do not these things please the people back home more than wise laws?" And it became a saying at the bustings: "Behold I get you such and such a thing."

And the people strove mightily to keep themselves solid with that party which keepeth the barrel in charge.

And by reason of these things the nation set at naught those things which maketh great, so that after a manner its progress was like unto that of a tortoise which lacketh ambition and suffereth much from gout.

And all these things are very much so to this day.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The following resolution re National Government was passed by the Winnipeg recognized organizing capacity where-
Whereas, victory in the war is not

only vital to Canada as a nation, but to each individual thereof.

And whereas, the urgent task of the administration of the Dominion of Canada at the present moment is to complete and make even more effective the mobilization of all our resources, men, women, money and material.

And whereas, the Canadian club of Winnipeg is of the firm belief that the determination of the Canadian people to carry on the war to victory and to bear the strain, however prolonged and however exhausting, will be strengthened and shown by the reorganization of the administration as far as practicable on the lines which have been followed by the mother country.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the club respectfully urges the right honorable the prime minister.

(1) To reorganize the administration along national lines, by including men of recognized organizing capacity wherever they may be found, irrespective of party affiliations or parliamentary experience.

(2) To give adequate representation in such reorganization to all classes of the nation who are contributing to the desired result.

(3) Following the example of Great Britain, to concentrate the executive authority in a war council of a few members.

Be it further resolved, that in the opinion of the club the reorganization can and should be carried out without an appeal to the electors.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the right honorable the Prime Minister.

U.F.A. Directors' Report

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of The Grain Growers' Grain Co. and the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., the directors felt that the creation of necessary machinery for aiding the work of co-operative trading of local unions should be held over. The new company would be able to greatly assist this work by business experience and perhaps also by strong financial backing.

The change of attitude on the part of banking and mortgage interests as well as others toward the association was noted. The European war had necessitated many changes of ideas. The recent increased prosperity of the farmer made some look at him again as the chief carrier of the after-war debt, but there was a big opportunity here for self-assertion not only in farmers' interests, but in the interests of the people of Canada generally.

Appreciation of the co-operation of the boards of other farmers' organizations during the past year was expressed.

JACK LONDON

Jack London, tramp, sailor, miner, journalist and author, recently died in California in his forty-first year. London was probably one of the best known short story writers on the American continent. As a lad he ran away from college and went to Klondyke, then went to sea before the mast, became a seal hunter, tramped thru Canada and the United States studying sociological and economic conditions, acted as war correspondent in the Russian-Japanese War, went into journalism, and finally settled down as an author. What he didn't know about the great outdoors and the sordid side of life was hardly worth knowing. His writings are characterized by directness and force, and thru all his books runs a sympathetic strain for the under dog. Some of his best known books are, "The Call of the Wild," "The Sea Wolf," and "John Barleycorn." He has written nearly a score of novels, as well as a great many short stories for magazines.

WORKING WITH A WILL

We are not sent into the world to do anything into which we cannot put our hearts. We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously; other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily; neither is to be done by halves and shifts, but with a will; and what is not worth this effort is not to be done at all.—Ruskin.

CATTLE FEEDING LESSONS

Steers that are full-fed from birth should not be held beyond twenty or twenty-two months of age, because there is a decided falling off in the rate of gain. After this age the carcasses are overdone, there is an undue waste of excess fat and the gain in weight in proportion to feed consumed is much reduced as well as the gain per day per steer. These are the results secured in a recent test at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station in which some steers were full-fed while others received much less feed.

The steers which received feed insufficient for the greatest growth were most affected by such ailments as indigestion and pink eye, and their sickness was more likely to result in death. In fact, among more than a hundred steers in the experiments, all the losses except one were among the low-fed animals.

Steers fed for long periods such as three years and a half on feed insufficient for the greatest growth, did not seem to be able to digest their feed and to make good gains when later put on full feed. Even a steer whose growth was greatly retarded for only one year never equalled in weight a steer of the same age which had been full-fed from birth, altho when put back on full feed he made very profitable gains and developed a very choice carcass of beef. These results do not disagree with the common observation that thin steers often make the most profitable gains. Such feeders have usually not been starved so long or so steadily. They have usually had bulky feed which kept up the stomach capacity even tho it didn't furnish a great deal of nourishment, and were very likely to have at least occasional large quantities of good nutritious feed, while the steers in the test were kept regularly on small quantities of food for long periods so that they seemed to lose the capacity to eat and digest as large quantities as they must handle to make the most profitable gains.

Thrifty yearlings put on feed that is not sufficient, even to keep up the body weight they already have, continue to grow in height and framework even when made to lose half a pound a day. Measurements of the skeletons did not indicate any decrease in the rate of growth for several months. Even when these animals were using the body fat to supplement the lack of feed there was a very noticeable addition of fat in the skeleton. Only when approximately all the fat was taken from the soft parts did the animals begin to draw on the fat in the skeleton to maintain existence.

The most economical choice beef resulted from the use of a feeder weighing about 750 pounds so fed as to make a gain of 500 pounds. Such a steer will probably not quite top the market, but he should make the greatest possible profit to the feeder and furnish an economical carcass for the butcher and the housewife and meat of a quality to please the most exacting. The carcasses show that of this 500 pound gain 38 per cent. is water, 49 per cent. fat and 12 per cent. protein. When similar steers were fattened until they had gained another 500 pounds, or gone from 1,250 pounds to 1,750 pounds, the carcasses were much overdone and the second 500 pounds was 76 per cent. fat, 18 per cent. water and 5 per cent. protein.—P. F. Trowbridge, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$5,172.50
K. C. Wallock, Sask.	2.50
Balmer G. G. Assn., Fernox, Sask.	27.00
Joe. Wall, Lenora, Man.	15.00
Ladies of Smiley G. G. Assn., Smiley, Sask.	25.00
Methodist Ladies' Aid, Eye Hill, Alta.	25.00
Men and Women Grain Growers of Fertile, Sask.	21.00
Joe. Handwick, Nesbit, Man.	5.00
John G. Handwick, Nesbit, Man.	1.00
Albert E. Handwick, Nesbit, Man.	2.25
Mrs. A. T. Patterson, Newdale, Man.	9.50
Wm. Carr, Watrous, Sask.	5.00
Margaret Averill, Clan William, Man.	3.00
Molly Averill, Clan William, Man.	1.50
Steve Averill, Clan William, Man.	1.50
Lily Averill, Clan William, Man.	1.50
Total	\$5,341.27

RED CROSS FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$2,467.50
K. C. Wallock, Sask.	2.50
Children of the Kasimif, Alta., School District No. 1941	2.50
"Walker Trio" of Rosemead, Alta.	5.00
Total	\$2,477.50