

TARIFF BIG ISSUES.

The Toronto Sunday World of December 23rd, 1917, contains the following statement made by the Hon. Geo. P. Graham on December 22nd, 1917.

"Within a year I believe that Quebec and the west will be together on economic issues, and that Ontario will find herself to some extent isolated. Eighty per cent. of the people of Quebec are free traders, as also are 90 per cent of the western farmers. Outside of Winnipeg the prairie provinces are a unit in their demand for sweeping tariff reductions and a large measure of free trade. The tariff question cannot be shelved by any agreement between politicians."

Asked about the recent election Mr. Graham said he was not greatly surprised at the result. Many people, he thought, voted with the government not because they were convinced that to vote for Laurier would mean any curtailment of Canada's contribution to the war, but because they were unwilling to take any chances whatever. "But the war," he continued, "cannot last always, and the government must soon address itself to fiscal and economic questions. The result is almost certain to be detrimental to the Ontario manufacturer. He is telling everyone that he is 'on top,' but he is on top of a volcano."

Quebec for Low Tariff.

"Heretofore Ontario could always rely upon a friendly hand from Quebec when the low tariff sentiment of the west became aggressive. Quebec had little or no interest in retaining the tariff, but the appeal could always be made to the supporters of any government from that province that consideration must be shown their friends in Ontario. To-day Quebec may feel that she has no friends in the Province of Ontario, and that her natural alliance is with the free trade west. The west voted on conscription in the same way as Ontario, but so far as I can learn there was in that part of the country no violent attacks upon or vitriolic abuse of Quebec as a province or the French-Canadians as a class. In short the western people did not run away with the idea that there would never be another election in Canada."

"The western farmer to-day is making so much money that he can hardly stop to count it. He may not greatly care for the moment whether he pays one hundred dollars or two hundred dollars for a given implement. But that phase of the war will pass, and we will all be getting down again to hard pan. You will find the tariff question which the Union government thinks it has laid away a very lively corpse before long, and you will find Quebec and the west lined up against Ontario. Any child can see what is coming, and the Ontario manufacturers who has turned his back on Quebec will take just what the western grain growers see fit to give him. Not only is the tariff going to be reduced, but we are going to have a large measure of free trade. The government will not lead parliament, but will have to follow parliament on the fiscal question. They dare not risk an election in the west a year or two hence with protection or free trade the only issue before the people."

REFERENDUM IN AUSTRALIA.

For a second time Australia has by the democratic ballot voted that compulsory conscription shall not be adopted in that Dominion. We ask some of our leading newspapers throughout Canada if this is "The first Australian Defeat" if this vote is any indication that "Australia is out of the War." Certainly not. This is not an Australian defeat nor is it any evidence that Australia is going to quit?

HOW A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER DIRECTED THE ENUMERATOR TO MAKE UP THE LISTS.

The following letter was sent by Mr. H. S. Clements, ex-M.P. and Conservative member elect for Comox-Alberni, B.C.

535 Pender Street West,
Vancouver, B. C.,
September 29th, 1917.

Tom Hern, Esq.,
Sayward, B.C.

Dear Hern:

Yours received this morning on my leaving for Nanaimo and district. Strictly private I have phoned the Inspector to proceed to Sayward at the earliest moment and to consult with yourself and every other responsible citizen there, and to get at the real facts and to settle the question according to the facts. I hope this will be satisfactory to you and friends.

I also hope that you and all our friends will get down to real organization and when the enumerator is appointed for your poll there that every available friend can be added to the lists to be made up and the **enemy as much as possible omitted from the list.** I will endeavour before the election to get in to see you personally.

With very kind remembrances, I am,
Truly yours,

H. S. Clements.

THE SOLDIERS' VOTE.

The Press continues to show how the Hon. P. E. Blondin, with a majority of over 2,000 against him is to be elected on the soldiers' vote, also Mr. Sevigny, who will require some 2,000 soldiers' votes to elect him. Also how Mr. Fred Stork, elected as Liberal member for Skeena, B.C., with a majority of 500, will be defeated by 1,700 by the soldiers' vote, and Mr. Euler the successful Liberal candidate in North Waterloo with a majority of 2,400 is to be counted out by the Soldiers' vote notwithstanding that not more than 1,000 soldiers have enlisted from this constituency. We ask, is there to be a wholesale manipulation of this soldiers' vote?

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

A further increase in the cost of living is shown in the monthly report of the Labour Department for November. During the month the cost of the weekly budget of staple foods was \$12.10, as compared with \$11.81 in the previous month, and with \$9.81 in November, 1916.