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Washington Tariff Making

As pointed out in our last issue, the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee at Washington are determined to make sweeping reductions in the duties on foodstuffs and agricultural products generally, without, however, resorting to free trade. It is not certain, indeed, whether or not Congress will wholly ratify the report of the Committee on this matter. In any event, the attitude assumed by this Committee is in accordance with the professed policy of the Democratic party, and the probabilities are in favor of concurrence by a Democratic Congress.

The enactment by Congress of such tariff legislation, as is anticipated in this connection, will bring to Canada all the advantages that could be hoped for by the adoption of the reciprocity agreement before the electors in 1911, without any sacrifice or concession on our part. This consummation will be the strongest possible vindication of the stand taken by the Conservative electors of the Dominion in the Federal elections of 1911. Wider markets was the shibboleth of the followers of Laurier; but for the very problematical advantages of these wider markets, they were willing to sacrifice our fiscal and commercial independence; to enter into entangling alliances with our Republican neighbors, and to become in the words of President Taft "an adjunct" of the United States.

It is our opinion that the advantages for Canada to be gained by the tariff legislation now contemplated at Washington, are not so great as some might be disposed to believe. There is no very striking evidence to show that we have been suffering overmuch of late years for want of markets or on account of low prices for our products. All these factors were contributory to the judgment arrived at by the opponents of the reciprocity pact in 1911, and what is coming to pass at Washington now amply proves the wisdom of the course pursued in the elections of that year. Apart, altogether, from the foregoing considerations, the Canadian electorate showed that they had just as high regard for the honor and independence of their own country as the people of the United States have for theirs. As we have more than once pointed out, whatever tariff enactments or changes the Washington authorities bring about are for their own special benefit; not for any advantage that Canada might reap therefrom. This is strikingly brought out in the following extract from an interview given by a prominent Democratic member of the Committee to the representative of the Montreal Star:

"Is it not a fact," I said to him, "that under the reductions you propose, Canada will get lower rates, in some directions, than she would have obtained under the Reciprocity Act?" "There is no doubt of that," he candidly replied. "Canada," he added, "is, in my opinion, going to get more for nothing than she would have got by giving us something under the Reciprocity Act. We are not going to do this of course, with the intention of favoring Canada, for Canada will get the same rate as any other country.

We are doing it for the sake of our own consumers. But there can be no doubt that Canada will derive more benefit, in one or two directions, at any rate, than any other country.

"Take lumber, for instance. I feel perfectly convinced that lumber will go on the free list. I do not mean rough lumber merely, but the partly finished product. In this Canada supplies more to us than any other country, and in the stand for free lumber we are supported by many Republicans.

"Personally, I shall support the putting of all food products, so far as possible, on the free list. I think, too, although I am of course only giving a personal impression, that cattle, meats, wheat and flour, in which Canada deals so largely, will all go on the free list. I stand also for putting raw wool on the free list, but I have my doubts whether the duty on this will be entirely removed, although reduction will undoubtedly be made. In this again Canada will benefit, although our primary object in reducing the duty will be to encourage the raising of mutton sheep at home.

"I need hardly say, perhaps, that our aim in taking the duty off cattle and meat will be to bring good food more within reach of the poor and to attack the problem of the increasing cost of living."

Whatever advantages there may be in store for Canada under the proposed legislation at Washington, one would think that Canadians of all shades of political belief would anticipate them with unqualified satisfaction. This, however, does not appear to be the case, if we are to judge by some of the declarations found in Liberal newspapers. Expressions of satisfaction at the prospect are qualified and very grudgingly recorded. Take, for instance, the following from the Charlottetown Patriot:

"While it would have been preferable to have obtained the wider markets as proposed by the Laurier Government, it is well to get them even in the way it is now reported that we are to obtain them." From this declaration we must infer that the Patriot would prefer that Canada, to secure any advantage in the United States markets, should sacrifice its fiscal independence and become "an adjunct" of that country. The Leopard cannot change his spots. Here is another extract from the Patriot:

"The duties on agricultural products coming into Canada are simply a sham, are of no real advantage to our people, and their removal would do them no harm." This declaration, if correct, is very severe on the Patriot's Liberal friends. They kept these duties on during the fifteen years they were in power, and when the Conservative Government, last session, introduced legislation to appoint a tariff commission to investigate all these matters, the Liberal majority in the Senate, at the behest of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, defeated the bill. If the Patriot keeps on making such nonsensical statements as these, the Liberals here will have good reason to exclaim: "Save us from our friends."

The decision of the Privy Council in the Great Waterways case may mean the defeat of the Sifton Government in Alberta. It is questionable which was the worse, the original deal or Premier Sifton's confiscatory legislation. The Alberta Government is badly discredited. It has only maintained itself in power by continual shifting. Unless it adopts the notorious Scott election law and election methods, it will be defeated when an appeal is made to the electorate.—Regina Province

The Short Course.

The short course in agricultural education, under the auspices of the Provincial Government, conducted in this city for two weeks ending on Saturday last, was a wonderful success. This was the first term of the short course, and the attendance was wonderful, not less than five hundred; farmers and their sons and daughters. The whole curriculum was under the direction of Hon. Murdock McKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture, and was admirably carried out. In addition to the professors in the different departments of agricultural science, the scholars were addressed by Premier Mathieson, Hon. Murdock McKinnon, Hon. W. S. Stewart, Rev. Dr. Gauthier, Mayor Lyons and several other leading citizens. Nor was the social side of life neglected. The citizens of Charlottetown entertained the visitors with a very attractive musical and literary programme, one night last week, and on Friday night the closing meeting was in charge of the visiting farmers, who had attended the course. They gave a very interesting entertainment, in return for those tendered them by the citizens. Our space does not permit us to go into detail regarding any special phases of the course. Suffice it to say that all who attended pronounced the affair a grand success and are loud in their praise of all who took part in the work of instruction in agricultural education. Next year's course will be looked forward with great interest.

LENENT SERMON.—The first of the special Lenten sermons, in St. Dunstan's Cathedral, was delivered last Sunday evening, by Rev. J. F. Johnson, of the Cathedral staff. His theme was "In difference," and his text was the 7th and 8th verses of the VII chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew: "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." The Rev. preacher, in eloquent and trenchant language admirably developed his text. He pointed out that the words of his text were extracted from our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, wherein our dear Lord laid down the principles of His teachings. This system of teaching inculcating unity of faith and sincerity of love; this Christian religion is far above all other science and all forms of human knowledge. No system of philosophy equals or can equal the system of religion inculcated by the sermon on the mount; because it is divine and comes from our Lord himself. It inculcates sincerity, love and truth and all virtues. In the face of this, he said, it would be most natural to suppose that religious indifference would not exist. But, sad to say, such is not the case; the world is filled with indifference. The Rev. preacher showed that numbers of people hold that one religion is as good as another, if we lead good lives in the sight of the law. Such doctrine, he said, was false and pernicious. If such doctrine were true, our Lord would not lay down the principles of religion, according to which He should be worshipped and adored. The doctrine that one religion is as good as another is most offensive to God; for it seeks to render of no avail the doctrine He preached in the sermon on the mount. The doctrine that one religion is as good as another, the Rev. preacher said, was blasphemy; error and vice could be set up as against truth and virtue.

These false and pernicious notions about religion, he pointed out, are the cause of so much wrangling and dispute in our times. All these false notions should be cast aside and we should worship God in spirit and in truth.

Premier Mathieson Addresses the Empire Club, Toronto.

(Toronto News.) Prince Edward Island—Its Past Present and Future," was the subject of an address to the Empire Club yesterday by Hon. J. A. Mathieson, Premier of the Island Province. In the past it has had several distinctions, the speaker pointed out, and most important among these is the fact that at Charlottetown was held the first meeting of the gentlemen who were interested in consummating a Canadian Confederacy.

Premier Mathieson felicitated himself and the Island Province that following the action of the Borden Government last fall in announcing its intentions to fulfil at an early date the pledges made at the time of Confederation, continuous transportation facilities between Prince Edward Island and the mainland would now be advanced and completed, and thus would place the Island province in a better position to compete with the other provinces on relatively equal terms, in agriculture and industry.

"Prior to Confederation" the speaker stated, "Prince Edward Island then a colony, had a well established trade with Great Britain and with the West Indies. After Confederation, with the increase of transportation between the other provinces, this trade was drawn to them, while the continual interruption of the service between the Island and the mainland in winter paralyzed all business activity during the winter months and gradually lost to Prince Edward Island many of its people; who emigrated to the United States. The province thus laboring under insufficient revenue reduced population and consequently reduced representation in the Dominion House was in a poor position to compete with the other provinces, and the people had become seriously dissatisfied with the arrangements made at Confederation, and the result was disputes between the Provincial and Federal Governments over rights and pledges unfulfilled. But the action of the Borden Government in increasing the subsidy last year by \$100,000, enabled the Island Province to come out with a clear balance sheet at the end of the fiscal year. This together with the promise of Mr. Cochrane to establish the long delayed car ferry, had changed the attitude of the Island people to the Government and filled them with optimism for the future.

Taking up the matter of increase in territory, Premier Mathieson remarked that while Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba had benefited by allotments of extra territory from the Canadian domain, Prince Edward Island, by accident of Maritime position, had acquired neither increase in territory nor a supplemented subsidy for carrying on public affairs and the construction of public works. He declared that since the Island Province could not get an increase in public lands, the Government should not fail to give the province an increase in subsidy which would correspond relatively to the territories acquired by the other Provinces.

In this way, he thought, the Island Province would have resources or revenues which would enable the "little sister of Confederation" to compete with the other provinces of the Dominion.

ADVANCES IN AGRICULTURE. "Several advances have been made in Agriculture," continued Premier Mathieson. "Not least among these was the establishment this year of an Agricultural College, the present attendance being 500 students.

"Developments in fisheries too have taken place. The cultivation of the fine Island oysters, for example was not promoted until last year when a statute was passed defining the rights of the Province and of the Dominion in the matter. Surveys of 20,000 acres of oyster beds have been made and several thousand acres leased to private owners. It is hoped to lease the 100,000 acres of the Islands oyster plantation, and thus derive a revenue which will very materially increase the wealth of the Provincial treasury. The expense of

fitting out the oyster plantations for oyster culture is very large. But the Island oyster commands a price double of that commanded by the American oyster.

THE FOX INDUSTRY.

Black foxes, also are a growing industry in Prince Edward Island and this includes live black foxes, which shortly ago commanded a price as high as \$30,000 a pair and none less than \$2,000 a pair. There are numbers of Companies for carrying on the industry in the Island, and some men have already become millionaires from the profits.

"Let me say that there is in the Island Province a spirit of optimism never there before and that the spirit is on the increase.

Federal Parliament.

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—The first ministerial caucus since the holidays will be held tomorrow morning when it is probable that arrangements for improving the rate of progress in the House will be considered. The course of the naval debate in the last few days has been such as to confirm the impression that the opposition has decided upon a policy of time killing. The floor of the House has been left to Liberal speakers who are doing a lot of talking without contributing anything new. The first object of this course seems to be to provide time for healing what is said to be a very wide breach in the Liberal ranks. Liberal members do not to a man approve the Laurier naval concoction, and it is evident enough some of them would welcome an opportunity to put the whole question where the government was disposed to keep it, out of politics. From now on it is expected that late sittings will be the order. A beginning was made tonight.

One of the most significant features of the situation is the continued absence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the House. The explanation given of this is that the opposition leader has a cold. The unofficial explanation given is that he is sick and tired of the course dictated by a few of his former colleagues most of whom do not now occupy places in the firing line.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is quite well enough to attend to his correspondence and to see one or more of his more trusted supporters from time to time. The physical difficulties involved in the policy of obstruction do not appeal to him, and he has little stomach for the long succession of late sittings. The naval debate was resumed today and again dragged along without any striking features to record. The Liberals are evidently prolonging the debate in the hope of drawing attention from a real collapse which has overtaken them on this question and from divided counsels on the subject with which they are afflicted.

A number of questions were answered at the opening of the house. Hon. Mr. Cochrane stated that on January 9th last the contract for the Prince Edward Island car ferry was awarded to Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitehorn and Co. of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The price is £138,000. Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson and Co., of Wallsend on Tyne tendered for £140,000. Canadian Vickers tendered for a smaller type of vessel at £112,400 and £110,700. The indicated horsepower will be 7,000. It is expected that the service will be commenced in 1914. Plans and specifications are being prepared with regard to copiers and similar conveniences.

In reply to another question he said that some dredging will be required in connection with the service.

Mr. Emmerson found out that owing to delays by the contractors there has been delay in supplying some of the Intercolonial trams with their winter suits.

Hon. Mr. Crothers stated in reply of Mr. Cocksbut that the Technical Education Commission has not yet completed its report but hopes to do so soon.

Mr. McDonald brought forward a cable despatch to the effect that proceedings in England with regard to the imperial naturalization were held up by objections raised by the Canadian government. Hon. Mr. Doherty said that the last communication which has passed was a despatch from Canada which was sent on December 4, and intended to remain Liberal, that he intended to take a loyal stand, and that he has not been subjected to the party lash, and with that he plunged into his proposals.

Moore & McLeod 119-121 Queen Street Charlottetown, P. E. I. COMPLETE CLEARANCE SALE OF ALL Furs, Coats, Winter Suits! ON ACCOUNT OF SOME RADICAL CHANGES in the Position of some of these lines in the new annex which we are now having built, it is imperative that we should have every item cleared out by the middle of February. We are therefore continuing the great discounts that have resulted in so wonderful a sale during the past three weeks. All Fur Coats Offered at 20 p. c. Off All Fur Neckwear and Muffs 20 p. c. Off All Women's Cloth Coats Offered at One Third Off All Women's Winter Suits offered at One Third Off Jan. 29, 1913.

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