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THE MORAL ASPECT OF TARIFF PROTECTION

The question of higher tariffs and adequate protection for industries is usually looked upon as a purely economic question, hence the average citizen tends to forget that there are very few economic questions that do not have a moral aspect also.

That this is true of tariff protection a little clear reflection will convince any person.

All schools of ethics in modern times agree that there are certain moral codes called natural laws.

They may disagree about the origin or source of these codes, nevertheless they all agree that they are necessary for the well-being of society.

The first of these laws upon which there is common agreement is that of self-preservation.

Civilized society recognizes the right of the individual to preserve his own life, and our legal systems embody that view when they acquit a man who has killed another in self-defense. Society even goes further than this for it punishes as criminals those who while in possession of their faculties attempt to commit suicide.

Society also lays upon the individual the obligation of preserving the lives of his family, and punishes those who while able to do so, neglect to provide for their families, and consequently place lives in danger.

Again Society lays upon the individual the onus of protecting and defending his country. That this is recognized even by those who sneer at moral codes as being buttresses of capitalism, is seen in the arguments advanced by the Russian communists some time ago when there was a possibility of a war between Soviet Russia and Poland. Their actions the Soviets declared to the world, were inspired by the defense of their country. All schools, all peoples then agree that self-preservation is the first law of nature not only for individuals, but for nations as well.

WHAT THEN IS TARIFF PROTECTION, BUT THE APPLICATION OF THIS LAW TO A COUNTRY'S INDUSTRY. THE FACT THAT NEARLY ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD HAVE ADOPTED PROTECTION IN SOME WAY OR OTHER, PROVES THAT IT IS NORMAL TO THE MORAL SENSE OF MANKIND.

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WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS IT THAT PROPOSES TO GIVE TO OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING GERMANY, BY THE INDIRECT METHOD OF A LOWER TARIFF, THE VERY THINGS WE FOUGHT TO PREVENT GERMANY GETTING BY A DIRECT METHOD.

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Free trade advocates who point to Great Britain in support of their position are beating the air for Britain's case merely proves, that even as the individual may for a time violate moral laws and prosper, so may a nation, but just as the individual in general returns to a truer morality so does the nation, and in Britain may be observed at the present time signs of a return to a sounder economic moral basis.

There is no doubt that Sir Adam Beck's years were shortened by the excessive and often very unreasonable demands made upon his time and strength through the repeated attacks upon the work of the commission by those antagonistic to public ownership," says Mr. Cook.

"There has been no time in the history of the commission when its various operations have been so thoroughly vindicated, and when the injustice of all the attacks against the commission has been disclosed and disposed of to the satisfaction of the public concerned as during the last few years of Sir Adam's life. Sir Adam leaves his successors a clean slate."

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THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

The Success of a Courageous Man

Recently in their home in Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Orpen, celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of happy married life. Abe's many friends, whose numbers are legion, unite in wishing this kindly couple many years yet to round out lives that have been characterized by kindness, courage and usefulness.

Fifty years ago, Mr. Orpen, then a young master carpenter, started a happy married life and laid the foundation for the success which came to him with the passing years.

Labor accords its tribute of admiration to men who by their courage and constituency, make their mark in the world's affairs and Abe as he is called has ever been a man who put principle as his guiding light through life.

One tenet that the workers have held with tenacity is the right to live their lives as they see fit and to enjoy the recreations of life without being hampered by petty cramping regulations and they have felt and rightly so, that so long as they obeyed the laws of the community they should not be subjected to undue interference with their recreations and pleasures.

In this viewpoint they have a stout defender in Abe Orpen who time and time again has stated publicly that interference with the rights of the working class was a vicious principle and should not be tolerated in a civilized community. The working class has long ago recognized that the battle Abe Orpen was fighting was theirs and from no section of the community will go more hearty wishes for happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Orpen than from Labor.

The greatest and most democratic president the United States ever had was familiarly called Abe by the people who loved him for the many qualities which endeared him to them and the familiar name Abe given to Mr. Orpen is a similar tribute from those

who know of and appreciate his many sterling virtues.

The "Canadian Labor Press" unites in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Orpen many happy years.



Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Orpen

Tombs Is Given Government Job

Thomas Tombs, who sat as a Labor member of the U.F.O.-Labor Government for Peterborough has been given a position as a luxury tax inspector by the Provincial Government. Mr. Tombs entered the Legislature in 1919, and was one of the labor men who supported the Drury Government until its defeat by the hands of the electorate.

American Labor to Be Neutral

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor, which in 1924 threw its support to the independent presidential candidacy of the late Senator La Follette, will henceforth return to its non-partisan policy in political campaigns and tie itself up to no third party movements.

The federation's executive council has emphatically announced this purpose at the conclusion of sessions here devoted to mapping out a "strenuous non-partisan" campaign to be waged in behalf of individuals receiving the labor endorsement in next year's congressional elections, regardless of party affiliations. Such endorsements will be suggested in reports now being prepared for the Federation's National convention at Atlantic City next October, dealing with local, state and national political contests.

The council made organized labor's position clear to leaders in the present third party movement with the declaration that "no aid or comfort" will be given those seeking to launch such movements. It thus carried forward the dictum of the Federation's El Paso convention that it "must be as free from political party domination now as at any time in its history."

The 1924 campaign, the council said, demonstrated that the launching of third party movements, which generally expire after one election, is "wasted effort and injurious to the desire to elect candidates with favorable records."

In calling on State Federations of Labor and Central Labor bodies to prepare to give active assistance in the forthcoming campaign, the council warned them to be on guard particularly against efforts of political "bosses" to defeat the primary system for nominating candidates.

Rail Strike in Australia

Brisbane, Australia.—The latest indications in connection with the railway strike as a result of reduction of five per cent. in the wages of the railwaymen are that the strikers spreading throughout Queensland. It has been threatened that unless the men's demands for the restoration of the wages paid prior to the five per cent. cut is met before August 31st a general strike will take place.

U.S. Ships Tractors to Soviet Russia

New York.—Purchases on a large scale of tractors and other agricultural machinery for Soviet Russia have been effected by the Amtorg Trading corporation within recent weeks following increased demands coming in as a result of the good crop conditions in the Soviet Union.

The first shipment of the new purchases was sent on the steamer Stakesby which sailed from New York on Aug. 7, with a cargo of 1454 tractors and 1500 plows and parts destined for the port of Novorossiok on the Black Sea.

Additional 2,300 tractors with plows and parts will make up the cargo of S. S. Beckenham, leaving New York on August 12 for the ports of Odessa and Novorossiok.

The value of the two shipments is placed at about \$2,200,000. Other shipments are to be made in the near future.

These two cargoes will bring up the number of tractors shipped to Soviet Russia by the Amtorg Trading corporation since last August to 9,000.

The 8-Hour Day Question for Congress

Ottawa, Ont.—An eight-hour day, enacted by legislation, will be urged at the 41st annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress in Ottawa the first week in September. The Congress convention call indicates the eight-hour day, old age pensions, immigration and unemployment as among the matters of national and international importance which still demand "active consideration."

The eight-hour day is at present extensively in force in Canadian industries, but by agreement than rather as a result of legislative action; and it is here that the conflict. Paris peace conference, labor principles were incorporated in the peace treaty recognizing the eight-hour day or a 48-hour week as the "standard to be aimed at." Subsequently at the international labor conference held at Washington under the auspices of the League of Nations, a draft convention was adopted providing for an eight-hour day in industry. In that convention, representatives of the Canadian Government of the day concurred. Now under the League of Nations Covenant, members of the league are merely required to submit the conventions to competent legislative authority for such action as may be necessary to give them effect. And which was the competent authority in Canada? Was it the Dominion Parliament or the legislatures of the different provinces?

Dominion law officers held that the eight-hour day was a question for provincial not federal legislative action and the convention went over to the nine different provincial governments. Only one, that of British Columbia, took any action and its action was contingent on the rest of the Dominion following suit. For all practical purposes, therefore, the situation remained unchanged.

Labor men then pressed for a conference to the Supreme Court of Canada to determine whether the ruling of the Federal law officers was sound. The reference was made and the Supreme Court decided that the only authority of the Dominion Parliament to legislate on the eight-hour day is in regard to servants of the Dominion Government and to terri-

tory not within the bounds of any province such as the Far North. For the rest, which comprises the industrial districts, authority to legislate lies with the provincial legislatures.

It is expected that when the Trades and Labor Congress meets in convention next month, the stand taken will be that the Dominion Government should bring down legislation for an eight-hour day within the limited jurisdiction as defined by the Supreme Court ruling. This, it is argued, would be "setting an example" to the provinces and lead the way. In the meantime, an eight-hour day by legislation in all the industries of the Dominion seems scarcely any nearer than when the International Labor Conference met at Washington in 1919.

Engineers on Bridge Survey

Windsor, Ont.—George H. Burpee and George Coldpitts, bridge engineers of the New York Trust Company, are starting a preliminary survey of conditions relative to the construction of the international bridge between Detroit and Windsor.

The engineers will make a close check on traffic across the Detroit river and also will supervise the taking of soundings across the river at various points, which have been proposed for the bridge.

Joseph A. Barr, vice-president of the trust company, is expected to arrive in Windsor shortly and he will remain there for several days, to aid in taking the survey.

Stirring Appeal to Voters of Quebec

VOTERS MUST BE TAUGHT TO VOTE AS THEY THINK

By C. H. Cahon

The issues raised in the provincial elections in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick clearly indicate that the electors in those provinces are being forced by existing economic and financial conditions to face such realities as increases of provincial and municipal debt for objects which give no promise of increasing provincial revenues; increases of provincial and municipal taxation, which are not only unnecessary and vexatious, but quite intolerable; rapidly-diminishing employment for those who are willing and anxious to work at home; and, in consequence, an unprecedented emigration of the youth of these provinces to the New England States in search of employment. The results indicate that the electors, both Liberal and Conservative, combined their efforts to find a way out of their existing difficulties.

Similar results may be attained in the ensuing federal elections if the electors are efficiently organized under intelligent, factual and effective leadership.

There are some essential political reforms which are now absolutely necessary, if Canada is to be placed on a sound and sane economic and industrial basis; but present political conditions are such that these reforms cannot be carried out effectively and successfully without the support of a considerable number of the sixty-five federal electoral constituencies of the province of Quebec.

Even if all the English-speaking electors of Quebec were unanimous in supporting these reforms, they could not hope to carry a half-dozen constituencies by their votes alone. The salvation of the financial and industrial interests of Canada depends in large measure on the decision of the electors of French descent resident in this province.

Senator David, whose special knowledge of political conditions in Quebec is generally recognized and whose sincerity of mind is beyond question, suggests that the majority of the electors in this province are more influenced by their fears of being involved in future foreign wars than by the gravity of the economic questions which now await adjustment and settlement. Mr. Bourassa, who has a keen insight into the mentality of the people of Quebec, says that Senator David states the truth when he affirms that the electors of this province have less animosity concerning what is past than of apprehension concerning the future; and, he adds, that before co-operating to repair the consequences of the follies committed during the recent war, they demand guarantees against the repetition of these same errors.

We should all strive to profit by the experience of the past. In this way alone may we learn wisdom. But no Canadian, and no body of Canadian electors, can now give effective guarantees, as to the course

which the majority of the Canadian people or of the Canadian Parliament will adopt and pursue, years hence, whenever there may arise international complications of which we now know nothing, and the import and peril of which we cannot now foresee. No generation of men can so effectively bind succeeding generations as to determine their decisions in the remote future. It is quite possible that at some future time even the Canadians of French descent may insist upon some aggressive action in which their fellow-citizens of English descent may be indisposed to concur. All such future issues must rest in the control of Providence, but, as intelligent and reasonable men, we may not now disregard pressing domestic difficulties, which threaten the very fear of the possibility that grave imperial or international complications may arise at some time in the future.

The immediate and pressing patriotic duty is the association and organization in the Province of Quebec of all men of Conservative opinions and tendencies for the purpose of procuring the early satisfactory solution of the serious economic and financial problems which now confront us. No such organization now exists. Continued indifference to our present national perils is reprehensible if not criminal. We would indeed prove unworthy of the races from which we are sprung, if we longer delay to provide remedies for existing difficulties.

In this province, old party lines were obliterated and the old Conservative party organizations were quite completely disrupted during the war. But the time and pressing necessity for reconstruction has arrived. Surely it is possible for the Conservative electors of Quebec to organize forthwith an association of all men of wood-will, and to formulate a program sufficiently broad to enlist the support of a large body if not a majority of the people of this province.

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