

their products and are at least as prosperous as the professional classes and the great body of industrial workers.

Threatened with such radical tariff changes as the farmers' leaders would put into effect, manufacturers may hesitate to expand their industries to ensure employment for returning soldiers. The labor which the industries could give if reasonable stability were assured, may have to be provided by the Governments and the municipalities and the cost laid upon the taxpayers. For soldiers and workers must be employed either in the natural activities of the country or upon undertakings at public expense. Indeed, the immediate adoption of the Grain Growers' platform would produce a situation in Canada in which only Bolsheviks would be employed and they only until their production produced its inevitable crash. The Grain Growers profess to have an alliance with organized labor and yet, in a period full of hazard and uncertainty, wings of their organization urge the instant adoption of a programme which would throw a multitude of workers upon the streets and introduce the soldiers to a country paralyzed by industrial uncertainty and confusion. It is thoughtlessly suggested that after four years of war, with the universal disturbance and dislocation which the war has produced, there should be revolutionary fiscal changes which at any time and under the most favorable conditions would be infinitely perplexing and disturbing. It is inconceivable that the Grain Growers would press their revolutionary demands at this time if they had ever seriously considered the certain consequences of their proposals.

This is a time for co-operation and not for conflict, for stability, and not for industrial anarchy. Before the tariff is revised there should be frank and full enquiry into the situation of the industries and thorough consideration of future economic policy. Great Britain, devoted to

free trade for two generations, has decided to establish preferential duties in favor of the Dominions, to protect key industries and to legislate against dumping to the injury of British labor. Australia is firmly and radically protectionist. Japan is guarding and developing her industries with a single concern for Japanese national interests. In South Africa there is a movement for higher duties. Brazil is taking measures to develop home markets and extend and strengthen domestic industries. In the United States there is not only no movement for tariff reduction, but it is certain that the Republican Party, which now controls Congress, is favorable to moderate tariff increases, and will firmly adhere to protection in the next Presidential contest.

Fortunately at Washington they have a Tariff Board which informs Congress and ensures that legislation for or against the industries of the country will not be rashly enacted. We need some such Board in Canada, not to instruct, but to inform Parliament, and not representing any single interest, but concerned only to provide facts and show actual conditions. The national welfare is the only sound test of legislation, and to that test manufacturers, organized workers and Grain Growers should willingly submit. But it is inconceivable that under existing conditions in Canada, with hundreds of thousands of soldiers and workers to be re-employed, with farmers prosperous and heavy taxation upon incomes and upon industrial and commercial companies, with the fiscal policies of other countries unsettled, and with Great Britain readjusting her commercial relations to the Dominions and to other nations, the Parliament of Canada, without enquiry or adequate knowledge and without reference to the constituencies, should be stampeded by one group or interest, however powerful, into a precipitate and revolutionary reversal of fiscal policy.