

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY APRIL 17, 1920.

FISCAL POLICY.

Much use has been found for the phrase "adequate protection," since Sir Robert Borden introduced it into the terminology of tariff discussion. By its opponents, protection was almost invariably spoken of as if it meant high protection, ultra protection, a piling on of duties without regard to any other consideration than the enrichment of the capital interests engaged in production. But the statesmen who framed and administered the National Policy had their minds fixed on national ends. They were sane planners for the national welfare, and nothing could be more insane than the assailing of them as men in league with interests, bent not on benefiting, but on plundering the country. These sound economists were well aware that excess of protection would be little better than deficiency of protection. They aimed to adjust the tariff advantage to home industry so as to give the largest benefit to our producers, consistent with the least burden to consumers. Adequate protection was always the idea of the men who moulded the tariff on National Policy lines. It is well all ways to keep this in mind, and, for that purpose, Sir Robert Borden's phrase ought to take the place of the single word "protection."

Besides yielding a large revenue and fostering the industries of the country, adequate protection fosters all other legitimate sources of revenue. It is truly the National Policy. It is possible so to revise the tariff—through the process may involve the reduction of some duties—as to make it more efficient for the fostering of industry and for the direct production of revenue. Every change in it that conduces to both these ends conduces also to its value as the mainstay of all national revenue policy. Tariff revision is a task to which should be brought great stores of knowledge of our industrial conditions and of our industrial outlook and an intimate acquaintance with the national finances. Sir Thomas White has a genius for fiscal business. We have large expectations from the present Minister of Finance, but we should have been very sorry had Sir Thomas White vacated his seat in the House, as he thought of doing, when he left the Cabinet. His counsel and advice should be freely drawn upon by the Government in the work of arranging the tariff and working out its general scheme of taxation. Whatever other imposts the Government may devise, it must have adequate protection if those imposts are to be the fruitful source of revenue to the country needs.

OUR MERCANTILE MARINE.

If anybody two years ago had prophesied that the middle of 1920 would see Canada in possession of a fleet of ocean steamers more than paying their way, with a shipbuilding industry representing an enormous investment and employing upwards of 50,000 persons, and with sight of the completion of a programme which will once more, after a lapse of nearly forty years, place the Dominion upon the map as a mercantile power, he would have been jeered at as an irresponsible optimist. That, however, as the Ottawa Journal points out, as precisely what has happened. Beginning with nothing more to build upon than the enterprise and genius of our people, the Government has succeeded in an incredibly short space of time in giving the country a fleet of ships which, worked as an ocean extension of the National Railways, provides a national asset of immeasurable value, particularly at a time when tonnage is a crying need and expanded exports are our economic salvation.

It is not necessary to repeat the figures given by Mr. Ballantyne in Parliament; suffice it to say that, despite the blue-ruin predictions of the Jerebals, these Government ships last year made a handsome profit and can be turned over to private enterprise today for more than what they cost. In addition, Canada has been provided with a plant for the manufacture of steel plate, thereby ending the condition by which we were dependent upon the United States for perhaps the most vital shipbuilding commodity; and today ships are being turned out of Canadian yards at a figure substantially lower than that quoted by the yards of the Republic.

Taken all in all, what has been achieved ought to be a matter of pride to any Canadian whose patriotism is not submerged by partyism. For, quite apart from the economic side, which, in itself, justifies what has been done, it is a splendid thing to have the ships of Canada sailing the seven seas, carrying the white Ensign and the goods of this nation to the ports of all the world and upholding those traditions of the sea which are among the heritages of the race from which we come.

CANADA'S STRIKE LOSS.

The present year, let us hope, will be much freer from labor troubles than last year was. According to the Labor Gazette, during 1919 there were

388 strikes and lockouts in Canada.

The number of employees involved was 128,000, and they lost 3,942,000 working days. If the average pay was \$4 a day—it was probably higher than that—the productive loss was nearly \$16,000,000, or about \$116 each. From the employee's point of view, perhaps the loss in production cannot be termed a loss financially—to him or her. Of the 388 strikes, 233 were for higher wages, and 155 strikes and lockouts in full being granted. Thus the increase in wages would at least offset the loss of income during the strike, and in most cases exceed it. But the three million and a half hundred thousand lost working days do represent a real loss to the nation. If the strikers were in a separate economic compartment of life, their idleness would affect only themselves. But they are not. For every day each worker stayed away, other workers were made idle, or handicapped in some way in carrying through their particular business. An article of commerce may pass through a dozen or two dozen hands in the market, then through another dozen or two hands in the distribution. If one link in this chain is missing, then the continuity is broken, and often the whole work held up. A fine illustration of what a strike in a "key" operation may mean was shown in Chicago, when railroad switchmen went out, throwing scores of thousands of factory workers out. Labor men are interdependent, and if they strike at their pleasure they cannot avoid disrupting production and service in many directions. If the strikers last year lost nearly four million working days, the general loss to the country can safely be estimated at ten million working days, or a full working year for 30,000 men.

Reference was made in Supply last night to the increase in Public Works contingencies, and it was stated that postages cost upwards of \$5,000 a year. A considerable sum is unnecessarily wasted every year in the various departments of government, and postages are not the only means by which this happens. At the same time this is an item that could be cut down. For instance, there are several hundred cheques made out each season for bounties for wild cats, porcupines and owls, ranging from \$2 to 25 cents. Each of these requires a separate letter and cheque to be mailed. Again, scores of odd sums from 10 cents upwards are returned each year for overpaid auto fees. Again, a letter and cheque goes with each. An individual cheque is made out for each employee on the roads and bridges and mailed separately to his address. There are thousands of such sent out each year. Surely some method might be devised to save all this unnecessary expenditure in postage stamps.

Hon. Mr. Robinson gave as his reason for not standing up for Carleton County's rights, that Moncton is entitled to two members. It is not the Election Act gives it one member, and gives Carleton three. If there had been an Act giving Moncton two members, Moncton would have had them within a few weeks after the need for an election arose, and would not have had to wait for four sessions to get its rights.

In the Official Report of last night's proceedings in the House, under the item of School for the Blind, Mr. Baxter is made to say that lip reading is a better system for teaching pupils than by signs. It is evident that some reference to deaf mutes must be omitted, as, neither lip reading nor any other signs would be much use to a blind pupil.

Mr. Messerieu said yesterday that he believed the Government would do justice to Carleton at an early date. This must be the kind of faith that should move mountains—but doesn't.

Oh, Dave! how could you?

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Editor "The Standard" St. John, N. B. Sir—The "Times-Star" issue of 14th inst. Fredericton correspondent, gives the personnel of the Prohibition Committee which appeared before the Legislature at Fredericton on 14th inst. for the purpose of urging the holding of a referendum on the question of liquor importation into this Province. Coupled with the names of the clergymen composing the committee were the various religious, temperance, and municipal bodies for which each appeared.

May I inquire if His Lordship, the Bishop of Fredericton, in his reported remarks urging the referendum on importation, spoke for the Anglicans of New Brunswick? ONE OF THEM. Bellefleur, N. B. April 15th, 1920. To the Editor of the St. John Standard Dear Sir—Would you kindly publish the following article through the columns of your paper? On August 2nd, 1918 I was summoned to attend court in Campbellton and on August 23rd in the William Currie investigation. I have been unable so far to get my fees and travelling ex-

penses. I wrote the Commissioner, Mr. James Friel, Moncton, who had summoned me in regard to my dues. He told me to send him a copy of the summons which unfortunately I had lost. In the mean time he also wanted me to send a line from the constable who served me with the summons, which meant double expense. He had a copy of the court record, what more did he want? I also wrote to the Honorable W. E. Foster, Premier of the province, receiving very little satisfaction for an answer. When the party were returned to power they all claimed to be angels of honesty.

Some of the Conservative party may not have been the most honest people in the world, but no man ever heard tell of the Conservative party getting down to robbing the laboring man like the present administration has done. I lost a day's work, also paid my own expenses, which a man working by the day cannot afford to lose, to oblige the Foster-Veniot combination. I do not think such a parcel of thieves and robbers existed since the Jesse James gang was at the height of its career at all. I have not heard of you since we have at Fredericton today. But I trust to have a chance at the polls in the near future.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor. One of the victims of the Foster-Veniot Government. THE PROHIBITORY LAW We have received a rather lengthy communication from a correspondent who signs himself "One who believes in Conversion and not Coercion" on the subject of Prohibition. We entirely agree with what he says, but as we have returned to publish several other communications that have advanced opposite views, we must, to be consistent, decline to publish this one also, at this stage of affairs at any rate. The manuscript can be returned to the writer or kept in a stamped addressed envelope.—Ed.

THE LAUGH LINE

Modern English. "I know he has cooked up something against me." "I suspected he was giving you a raw deal."—Baltimore American.

"The Vampire" Modernized. A fool there was and his home he sold. Even as you and I; And he laughed as he counted out his gold. Even as you and I; But he realized when it was too late that his profits would all evaporate on another purchase of real estate. Even as you and I.

Soon out of Sight. "So you think you are becoming near-sighted, do you?" said the optician. "Yes, I do," replied the tired business man. "What makes you think so?" "Because I can't see a dollar go near as far as it used to."—Yonkers Statesman.

Said Oujia. "Well, now, Maud, wouldn't that jolt you? I just said to Oujia, Oujia, is money for your thoughts? And whadda think she said?" "What did she say Sue?" "Money has shrunk in purchasing power—a nickle please!"

Sauce for the Gander. Sista, Bill exclaimed the miner's wife, reproachfully. "Ah think that wor very near to go 't theatre an' look tek me 'ere for your thoughts." "Sh, hush," replied her hubby casually. "Its just t' sa-ame as if we both went. Thee an' me's one, that knows."—London Answers.

A BIT OF VERSE. MEMORY. Think not, O Men, that they who see you come With swinging step and proud up-care, Care naught, the voice of welcome lying dumb In hearts where seems that voice has long since fled.

What voice in triumph or in joy can rise From laden hearts, that for the dead love crave A mournful memory of him who lies Alone in death in that far distant grave? From Ypres' hills, St. Eliot's riven mound, To where the red-dyed Ancre winds her trail; On Vimy's crest, or that dead, martyred ground, That black's the scarred slopes of Passchendaele?

Where 'Arras' tricken towers their vigil keep O'er fields now sacred with that mortal clay Where Monchy's lonely mound looks o'er their sleep, The shatter'd sentinel of fair Cambrai? How many fields contain these scattered bones, As sared in the darkened heape of Lens, As in the deathless glory that is Mons, Or in the splendor of Valenciennes!

When first, in strength of youth, you sternly fought In silence then did they behold your way? No voices storm'd; in sorrow lay the thought Of him, whose life is now but yee-terday. Think then O Men, that they who, Behold your path by memory's inward gaze; Rise hearts crush'd love by death's un-sparing hand, Rise up for you unto your God in praise.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday was ma's birthday, and she went out in the afternoon and I got a piece of cardboard box and printed on it, Welcome Home on Your 40th Birthday, Ma! Me jest saying 40th on account of 40 sounding like a good number, and I stuck the sine up in the parlor window, looking pretty good in 4 colors, and pritty soon people started to stop and look at it, saying to each other, Ha, ha, thats pritty rich that is, ha ha, wate till Mr. Potts sees that.

O, they think its all rite, I thawt. And I went erroud to my cousin Artles, and wen I come home for supper the sine was out there any more, me thinking, I bet she was scrippled all rite. Wich just then pop came up, and we both went in, and ma was in the parlor, saying, O, there you are, you had boy. Who, me? I sed, and ma sed, Yes, you wikkid little vilin, and pop sed, Wy, who's he bin murdering? end ma sed, Look at this, I ask you, look at this. And she held up the sine, saying, I was wondering wat the crowd of people was doing on our pavement, and they were looking at this thing stuck in the parlor window and laffing like a pack of fools we hynas or sunthing, and six people have called me up on the telephone lately to tell me they hard I was 40 years old as if it was a grate joke, and ill never speak to you agen if you dont punish that boy.

Meaning me, and pop sed, Ha ha ha, well, he ony made it about 4 years too munny, didnt he, wats 4 years between friends, ha ha ha, the boy ment well. Meaning me, and ma sed, O you make me sick, youre worse than any of them. And she went up stairs mad, and pop gave me 3 dollars to get some flowers for ma's birthday, wich I did, and pop gave them to ma, saying, Compliments of the season to the fairest flower of all, on her 23rd birthday, and ma stopped looking mad and after supper we all went to the movies.

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H. C. HOCKEN IS EXPECTED TODAY

H. C. Hocken of Toronto is expected to arrive in St. John today. Mr. Hocken is a very prominent Orangeman, being the Most Worthy Grand Master of British America, and while in St. John will address a mass meeting on Sunday and hold conferences with local members of the L. O. L. He is on his way to the 77th annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick which will be held at Woodstock, opening on Tuesday next. It is expected that a very large number of delegates from all over the province, about two hundred and fifty, will attend this provincial annual meeting. Mr. Hocken was formerly Mayor of Toronto.

WOMEN VOTERS' BILL STRONGLY RESISTED

(Special Cross-Atlantic Cable Service to The Standard, Copyright.) London, April 15.—The bill which would give voting enfranchisement to women at the age of 21 was stubbornly resisted in the Commons today. Attempts are being made to raise the age to 25 or 30. Sir Frederick Bantury declared when the present enfranchisement act was passed it was declared women did not want to sit in parliament. "English women did," retorted Sir Bantury, referring to the first woman member, American birth.

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"Oh, My! How Me W..."

"WHAT did he say?" "Well, he says that majority of people 'flu' have suffered afterwar heart action."

"I never had heart trouble." "No, but the way the doctor is that the nervous system is by the 'flu' that there is no force left to drive the machine."

"That is about the way I feel no appetite, and do not feel a..." "No, and you do not feel a little food, you do eat. So expect to gain strength. Why of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food?"

"Oh, I do not see how that me." "Now, John, I think that is you need. It always helps in run down in health, and I saying the same thing that..."

OBITUARY.

Robert A. McGeethan. Many friends will learn with regret of the death of Robert A. McGeethan, who formerly kept a shoe-repairing shop in this city and later in Fairville. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sordstedt Perry, in Prospero, N. S., where he and his wife had lived for about two years. He was

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