

The Journal of Commerce

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APR 5 1917
Int. Agr. Inst.

Vol. XLIII., No. 14

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1917

Price, 10 Cents

The Journal of Commerce

Devoted to
CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND
FINANCE.

Published every Tuesday Morning by

The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company,
Limited.

Head Office: 35-45 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Telephone: Main 2662.

Toronto Office: 263 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.
Telephone: Adelaide 917.

HON. W. S. FIELDING,
President and Editor-in-Chief

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year.
Advertising rates on application.

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Special Articles

**What Another Year of High Priced Wheat May
Do for Western Canada**

By H. M. P. Eckardt.

Your Money or Your Children.

By W. J. Macmillan.

Women's Votes in Labor and Politics.

By W. W. Swanson, Ph.D.

**Banking and Business Affairs in the United
States.**

By Elmer H. Youngman.

Conditions in the West.

By E. C. Hind.

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Questions to be Postponed

IN ENGLAND there are no more contro-
versial subjects than Irish Home Rule and
Imperial Tariff Preference. Both of these
questions, unfortunately, were precipitated into
the field of discussion recently, at a time when
the concentration of public attention on win-
the-war measures was of the highest import-
ance.

The Irish question was brought up by the
Nationalists on the plea that the Govern-
ment's attitude was a breach of faith, though
no precise statement was made as to what as-
surance had not been kept. Once more we
hear that movements are on foot that are
likely to lead to a settlement of the Irish ques-
tion. It is a consummation devoutly to be
wished. But unless some policy can be de-
vised that will win at once the support of
the Nationalists and the Ulster party the best
interests of all concerned will be promoted by
letting the matter rest until the war is over.
If no solution of the old problem can be found
except through the enactment of measures
around which there must be a revival of the
former bitter party strife, surely the interests
of the Empire will be served by postponing that
conflict until after the foreign enemy has been
crushed.

Discussion of the vexed tariff question has
been made necessary, first by the publication
of the report of Lord Balfour's Committee
respecting an Imperial preference, and secondly
by the consent of the Lloyd George Govern-
ment to the proposal for increased protec-
tion of the India cotton manufacturing in-
dustry.

One of the members of Lord Balfour's Com-
mittee signed a dissenting report in which
he held that the moment was most inopportu-
ne to raise the question which, he believed,
might prove embarrassing in Britain's rela-
tions with other countries. That there was
ground for this fear is evident from a letter
of the Paris correspondent of the London
Economist, who says:

"Naturally the resolutions passed by
Lord Balfour's Committee on Commercial
and Industrial Policy are arousing keen
interest in France, though at present there
has been very little comment on the sub-
ject. Any comment, of course, is liable to
censorship, but the Temps has been per-
mitted to suggest that the findings of the
Committee fail to agree with the conclu-
sions reached by the Economic Con-
ference of Paris. No doubt this matter
was carefully considered by the Commit-
tee, but it should be borne in mind that
such a scheme as that advocated in Eng-
land will certainly be regarded as con-
stituting a very serious hardship for
France, particularly when taken in con-
junction with the recent prohibition of so

many French commodities being imported
into Great Britain. France obviously
recognizes the complete freedom of Great
Britain and the Empire to control their
own legislation, but before any such tariff
scheme as that proposed is carried into
effect it would be very desirable for some
form of propaganda to be undertaken here
to explain to the French the exact mo-
tives that have influenced Great Britain.
Otherwise a regrettable misunderstanding
will be inevitable."

Referring to the two trade questions of Im-
perial preference—the hesitating and half-
considered resolutions published by Lord
Balfour's Committee—and the Indian cot-
ton duties, the Economist, conducted no long-
er by the Radical F. W. Hirst, but by editors
of a more conservative character, expresses re-
gret that the new Government, "accepted by
the nation solely because it was believed to
be going to lead it vigorously to victory in
war, should be taking advantage of its posi-
tion to tamper with our trade policy." How
keenly the battle over these questions will yet
have to be fought is indicated by the follow-
ing vigorous editorial assault of the Economist
on the Protectionist front:

"What has happened is that a bar-
gain has been struck between the Govern-
ment and the Indian Protectionists, a
bargain by which the Protectionists give
the financial assistance of India at a price.
We are prepared, they say, to support the
war, to consent to a big payment of Indian
money, on condition that we get in return
protection for the goods that we manu-
facture. It is exactly the kind of quid
pro quo that goes with the manipulation
of a tariff, and it is the very type of
bargain—interest against interest—that
Free-traders have foreseen and prophesied
as one of the first and worst results of
Tariff Reform. Tariff bargaining almost
inevitably generates an unsavory atmos-
phere in politics and uncertainty and un-
settled feeling in trade. Whether the ob-
ject be Protection for England or Prefer-
ence for the Empire or Secondary Prefer-
ence for the Allies, every attempt at a
tariff will be accompanied by an unpleas-
ant intrusion of 'interests' into politics, a
lowering of the standard of our political
life, and a growing demoralization of our
trade, owing to its connection with party
wire-pullers. Trade and politics have a
most uncanny knack of making one an-
other unclean."

As we pointed out in a former issue Mr.
Asquith's wise course saved the Government
from possible defeat on the Indian question,
his motion approving of the Indian cotton duties
for the time but distinctly reserving the sub-
ject for further consideration after the war,
being accepted by the house. While the ques-
tion of Imperial Preference was not raised in