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JAMES McISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor

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The Federal Budget.

As stated in our report of proceedings in the Federal Parliament, the budget debate came to a vote Thursday night when the amendment proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and embodying the fiscal policy of the opposition was defeated by a straight party majority of 42. This is the amendment proposed by Laurier at the close of his speech:

"This house is of opinion that in view of the prevailing economic conditions of the country it is advisable to place wheat, wheat products and agricultural implements on the free list and that, without doing injustice to any class, steps should be taken to alleviate the high cost of living by a considerable removal of taxation."

Sir Wilfrid's amendment occasioned considerable hilarity on the Government side of the House and was commented upon in humorous vein by Hon. Geo. E. Foster in beginning his reply. Mr. Foster said the motion was not so clear as the house might have expected in view of the vigorous English used by the leader of the opposition in portraying the needs of free food in his speech at Hamilton last fall. Sir Wilfrid had difficulties and had been forced to bring in a resolution indicating that he and his party after all their professions that the cost of living was too high, now desired merely free wheat, wheat products and agricultural implements. The battle was reduced to a small squabble about two or three articles which could not serve to reduce the high cost of the things on the breakfast table, Sir Wilfrid had said that agricultural production was on the decline.

If that was so the evil was not the result of three years showing but of fifteen years. The leader of the opposition in speaking of the decadence of agricultural production was using rhetoric and not fact. Not a farmer in Canada would agree with him because there never was a time in Canada when agricultural methods and the results of agriculture were better than at present. The leader of the opposition asserted that production did not meet the demand and ignored the fact that home consumption had greatly increased in recent years. He spoke of the necessity of getting the people back on the land.

"And what heroic remedy does he propose to get the people on the land?" asked Mr. Foster. "In Hamilton it was free food. He wanted to reduce the cost of living. He said that the way to reduce the cost of living was to admit food products into Canada free of duty. He would keep the farmers on the land by what measures? By measures to reduce the prices of farm products. My right hon. friend is not now so courageous as he was in Hamilton. Why is he on more backward ground? There is no answer but the politicians answer. The men behind him have said, 'wrong again,' 'right about face,' and he has obeyed the order."

Mr. Foster contended that the time had come when wheat should no longer, for the good of the country, be the one

great product of the western provinces. Organizations in the west were daily declaring that the western farmers should change their methods and go in for mixed farming.

Speaking of the unanimity with which Liberals spoke of the present time of depression, Mr. Foster said that in spite of the depression Canada's revenue had fallen off but slightly, her trade had grown and the output on the basic industries had been greater than ever before. In 1908 the trade depression did not lead Sir Wilfrid Laurier to talk of the decadence of agriculture and the falling off of homestead entries.

It is most remarkable to hear our Liberal friends talk about removing the duties on agricultural implements. During the fifteen years they held office they only reduced these duties half as much as the present Government did this session. But it is a peculiarity of Laurier and his followers to shout for reforms when in opposition and have no power to do anything, and to utterly fail to effect remedies when in power.

The Mexican Situation.

For the last week or so matters have been close to fever heat in Mexico. The condition of affairs in that Republic for a year or more have been regrettably unsettled. It is quite possible that the Mexicans are hard to govern; but it is unfortunate, to say the least, that the ruling authorities of great nations should accentuate this difficulty. This is what has been done by the President of the United States. In the first place, as we have already more than once stated, he perpetuated what appears to be a diplomatic blunder by refusing to recognize Huerta, the *de facto* President of Mexico. In thus acting he went directly contrary to all the other great powers who acknowledged Huerta as the chief executive head of the Mexican Republic. Whether rightly or wrongly occupying that position, they did not consider it their business to enquire. He was in the position by the will of the Mexican Congress and they diplomatically recognized him. The Ambassador of the United States in Mexico, joined with the other great powers in this recognition. As a matter of fact he led the way as he was the senior or dean of the foreign diplomatic corps. But for thus acting he was recalled and severely reprimanded by President Wilson.

From that moment President Wilson's attitude towards Mexico and its *de facto* President has been most tortuous, unjust and undiplomatic. The consequence is that he has got himself into difficulties of one kind or another that do not redound to the credit of the great nation of which he is the executive head. It was most undignified and most insulting to send a personal representative to act as a diplomatic spy on the head of the Mexican Government, while refusing to acknowledge the latter in the regular way. Worse than this was his alliance with the freebooting cut throat gang of rebels led on by Carranza and Villa, by removing the embargo on firearms and munitions of war, and otherwise encouraging them and patting them on the back. His conduct regarding the rebels placed him in a false and humiliating position when these scoundrels went only put to death a British subject in cold blood. Great Britain asked for satisfaction from the United States as the Government of that country had guaranteed safety to foreign subjects. President Wilson found himself obliged to ask his friends, the rebel leaders to investigate this

matter. They snapped their fingers at him and told him they would negotiate with Great Britain only. There the matter rests.

At last the opportunity to assume an aggressive attitude against Huerta and Mexico, for which Wilson had evidently been waiting, seemed to present itself. Some American marines, ashore at Tampico, were mistakenly or otherwise fired upon by some rash Mexican soldiers. All at once the tocsin of war was sounded and the American fleet and American soldiers were ordered to Vera Cruz. Huerta was ordered to make the most ample and humble apology, and in consequence of his leaving out some trifling points of this apology the Americans landed from their war ships, seized the Customs Houses at Tampico and Vera Cruz, and an armed conflict actually commenced. Several Americans and Mexicans were killed. Ever since this took place we have had nothing but sensational and conflicting stories of what is going on at the points of contact. Now intelligence comes from Washington that both Huerta and the American Government have decided to accept the good offices of Argentina, Chili and Brazil to arbitrate the trouble. Let us hope a reasonable settlement will ensue.

Cigarettes And "High Life."

The Moose Jaw News is inclined to wax caustic over the report that representatives of Ottawa's smart set occasionally indulge in cigarette smoking. The News says: "If cigarette smoking is as prevalent among the ladies of Ottawa's fashionable circle, as W. L. Scott says it is, then assuredly there is need for reform. Mr. Scott is not a sensational character, one who is desirous of making himself heard. He is a prominent lawyer, a member of one of Ottawa's oldest and most respected families, besides being president of the Ontario Union of Children's Aid Societies.

"Because of his position and general character, more than ordinary importance is to be attached to his evidence before the House of Commons committee on the Brother Cigarette bill. Here there is an opportunity for reformers. A practice which is so prevalent among the fashionable circles of the Dominion capital cannot but be considered a great evil. No wonder there is a demand for the prohibition of the cigarette.

"Such a disclosure as this is evidence that not to fashionable society leaders should one look for reform movements. Had Rideau Hall done its duty such a state of affairs could not have existed. After all, high society never did concern itself much over anything else than a good time. It requires no stretch of imagination to picture what havoc Queen Mary would make in the fashionable circles of the Dominion Capital."

Captain Stitt of Toronto, who is connected with the Roger Miller Company which has the contract for the construction of the ferry slip at Carleton Point, was at St. John Thursday on his way to New York. Captain Stitt went to New York to make arrangements for towing some scows and other plant to Northumberland Straits to be used in connection with the dredging operations there. The company intended to send its own tugs to New York to bring back the dredging plant, but owing to the continuance of cold weather he thought there was too much ice in the Straits to allow the tugs to get away. The company with

which Captain Stitt is connected is constructing the terminals of the car ferry across the Straits. It has to build a long breakwater and do a lot of dredging to form a harbor as well as to build a ferry slip.

Depositors in the defunct Farmers' Bank of Toronto who lost their money are going to have it refunded to them. This is the bank to which Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance in the Laurier cabinet, granted a certificate in spite of the warnings by leading financiers and members of parliament as to the dangerous character of the undertaking. The Government being thus responsible for the institution the depositors will have to be paid. This is another of the legacies left by the Laurier administration. Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, in the Federal Government, will move the following resolution, notice of which has been given. "Resolved, that it is expedient to provide that there may be paid and applied for out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, a sum not exceeding one million two hundred thousand dollars to pay to persons who are creditors for money on deposit in the Farmer's Bank of Canada the respective amounts standing at their credit in the books of the bank when the bank suspended payments."

Death was approaching a nineteen year old boy in Montreal last Friday night when the surgeons penetrated to his heart in an almost unprecedented operation and saved his life. As the boy, Bruce Moffatt, of 240 Delisle street, felt his strength returning at the conclusion of the operation he spoke up from the operating table with the words "I'm feeling good." He is now lying at the Royal Victoria Hospital with a tube attached to his heart and there is every hope that the single operation will have done away for ever with the pericarditis, or heart strangulation, from which he suffered. Details of his condition had been forwarded to the hospital by telephone. As the ambulance was dashing through the streets at top speed with him, the operating table was being prepared. So weak was the boy when laid on the table that it was impossible to administer ether, and a local anaesthetic was injected into his body, about the heart. In consequence he was able to watch the surgeons cutting into his breast.

Official trade figures for the twelve months ending March 31 last, were issued by the customs department Ottawa on Saturday last and show a grand total for the year of \$1,112,562,107, a record in Canadian history. The total trade of the preceding year which was up to the high water mark was \$1,068,960,225. The feature of the year recently closed is the increase in exports of Canadian produce, the total being \$431,589,658, an increase of eighty millions over the preceding year. The imports on the other hand, which amounted to \$918,328,874, showed a decrease from the previous year of a little over \$50,000,000, the biggest increase in exports was in agricultural products which rose 48 millions over the previous year. Manufactures jumped 14,000,000 and fisheries showed an increase of \$4,000,000, imports of coin and bullion over \$15,000,000 and exports of coin and bullion were over \$23,000,000. The trade for the month of March showed a decline from the previous year, the total being \$92,887,453 as against \$106,148,252.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries Ottawa has completed arrangements for the carrying out this summer of a thorough investigation into the Fisheries Resources of Hudson Bay and James Bay. The schooner Burley is being equipped at Halifax at the present time for the trip North. It will carry the complete scientific apparatus for a proper enquiry, and a number of experts will accompany the expedition. In addition, two parties are being sent over land to make a survey of the Fisheries of James Bay. They will leave Cochrane for the far North as soon as the weather permits. One party will explore the Fisheries Possibilities of the East Shore and the other of the West Shore of the Bay. The steamer Minto will also go North this spring to install eleven new lights along Hudson Straits and in the Bay, as aids to navigation along this route.

Federal Parliament.

Ottawa April 21—The budget debate was resumed today. Dr. Steele of South Perth rallied the opposition on their failure to produce an amendment. It seemed to be a case with the party, as with the member for North Renfrew (Mr. Graham) to have no amendment, no policy but just to jolly along for a time. As for the budget of Hon. Mr. White, he believed the verdict of the country to be that it was a "wise, sane and altogether satisfactory budget."

The government, said Dr. Steele had made a record in many particulars. There had been an increase in trade in two years and a half of \$275,000,000 and an increase in the trade with Great Britain of \$80,000,000. The revenue had increased by \$27,000,000 and the national debt had been decreased.

"What about trade with the United States?" queried Hon. Mr. Lamont.

"I'm such a good Canadian that I like to talk about Canada first," said Dr. Steele. "Let our friends of the opposition get their eyes off the United States for a little while."

Dr. Steele pointed out that while the trade of the United States had increased 11 per cent last year that of Canada had been even better and had increased 12 per cent. In the last five years the trade of this country increased 98 per cent.

It was sometimes said that the taxation of this country was very great and Liberals were charging that militia expenditure was responsible for much of this. But as a matter of fact the Canadian militia expenditure was only nine cents on the dollar of taxes while in the United States it was sixty-five cents, and in France thirty-one cents. Yet the Liberals who charged that this expenditure was too high were the same party which last year was ready to saddle upon this country a naval policy that would have laid a tremendous burden upon the country.

Ottawa, Ont., April 22—The decay of the opposition has not been so apparent since they were defeated in 1911, as during the present debate on the budget. All session they have shown themselves indecisive, heartless and dependent, but today they are in the throes of political decay.

When the budget debate started A. K. MacLean talked for hours but moved no amendment. He found it hard to swallow some of the free trade doctrines of his leader and the majority of his party. He declared himself in favor of free food, free wheat and free agricultural implements, but he refused to move any amendment which would pin him down to these views. Speaker after speaker followed but no amendment came and now we're told that Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself will have to move the amendment tomorrow night and that a vote will be taken soon. The troubles within the party on the free trade principles of a few of the leaders of the opposition are apparent and today the fat was in the fire when F. N. Nesbit, the liberal leader for North Oxford, announced that he was not in favor of free agricultural implements. He said he would reduce the duty seven per cent that is two per cent more than the government has done, but as to cutting the duty off altogether he would not consent to that. The Liberal protectionists (Continued on page three.)

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Federal Parliament

(Continued from page two)

have avoided speaking in debate for the most part, but the important point is that for the budget debate has been in great and the Liberal party are decided that they have been able to move one single amendment as yet. The like of it is remembered by any living politician. The Liberal party deed has fallen upon evil times. They are at war with themselves.

Premier Borden, who returned to the capital today after a night's rest in the South, told E.mond Proulx of Prescott at opening of the Commons today that the government had received a copy of the resolution of Vancouver County Orange Lodge in reference to home rule. A reply had been sent, said Prime Minister. The government did not feel called upon to express any opinion in regard to the contents of that resolution.

The minister of Militia told J. H. Sinclair that the total of expenditures and drill halls throughout Canada, built or building, from October 10, 1911, to December 31, 1913, was \$1,063,000.

Ottawa, April 23—The budget debate, the great debate, which was to show the Liberal party the people as a free trade organization, came to a conclusion tonight in a force. What of the talk of free food, free wheat, free agricultural implements? We have been having for weeks what the proponent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his heretics that the duty on flour stuffs was the real cause of the high cost of living and that it would reduce the cost of living by abolishing these duties. Heralded first in Hamilton, then the sound of trumpets, then Montreal, and often times on the floor of the house, so indeed that the country had gone to believe they were earnest, they backed away from their boasted principles tonight when they were brought to the scorch.

Free food? Never a bit of free wheat? Sure thing. Free agricultural implements? Certainly. This is the gist of the amendment proposed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier today.

Hon. George E. Foster, master critic of parliament, told him to shreds. He scorned Laurier's cheap effort to catch votes in manufacturing Hamilton, proposing to cheapen the product of the farm, but when face with the farmer, the opposition leader had lost his courage and refused to embody in an amendment the principles he advocated.

Yes, pointed out Mr. Foster, Wilfrid would give the west farmer free wheat, but how would free wheat benefit the breakfast table of the consumer? He would give free wheat, the duties on all the other articles upon that breakfast table remain. The opposition leader would give free agricultural implements, but when he had power for fifteen years he reduced the duty 2 1/2 per cent while the Conservatives reduced it 20 per cent. When he had the chance to declare for the removal of the duties in 1911 under reciprocity agreement, he refused. Now a year or two after when he is out of power would wipe them away.

The Liberal party today because of the failure of its policy to put forward his free trade policy when challenged to do so by the Minister of Finance foolish in the eyes of the country.

"If we cannot aid the dead, us at least help the living," Sir Wilfrid, dramatically, but forgot all about free food.

The reason, of course, as Foster pointed out, was because the Liberal party did not stand for it. Laurier could lead his men where he wanted. They fear the issue. Most protection suits Canada at present time and the people of it. There is no hope for the position in free trade.

Mr. Foster put the situation in his own inimitable way. "Present time my hon. friend searching for a policy for Canada is looking in vain for a real policy which will put him in power again and unforgotten for him he can't find such a policy."

Because the opposition could not find a policy to put forward the expected legislation of the C. N. R. is to fore morning sittings of the should begin, these were postponed from Monday week to an indefinite date. Premier Borden moved a motion in the house to have sittings beginning Monday. Wilfrid Laurier, however,