

## **CUSTOM DUTIES OR DIRECT TAXATION**

I am frequently asked to explain the difference between the policy of the United Farmers, represented in this Riding by their nominee for the House of Commons, Mr. T. A. Reid, and the policy of the Liberal Party, represented by my nomination for the Federal Parliament.

The published policy of the U.F.O. declares in unequivocal terms for the abolishment of all Customs duties, and in favor of direct taxation to provide the revenue which will be lost by the abolishment of Customs duties.

In view of the necessity of providing for an annual expenditure of \$500,000,000 a reasonable policy of Customs duties is essential to provide at least \$250,000,000 from this source annually.

From the standpoint of either population, wealth, assessment or the aggregation of municipal taxation, it is a reasonable proposition that upon either one of these basis, at least \$1,000,000 would be assessable to each electoral district in this Province under the U.F.O. platform upon which Mr. T. A. Reid unquestionably stands.

This means the following distribution of taxation for Federal purposes every year upon each of the following municipalities:

Bowmanville ....12	%	\$ 120,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	\$ 61,000
Cartwright .....05	%	50,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	20,800
Cavan..... 10	%	100,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	47,000
Clarke ..... 13	%	130,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	48,500
Darlington.. ....15	%	150,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	51,400
Hope..... 10	%	105,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	42,500
Manvers.... 10	%	100,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	28,000
Millbrook... 03	%	30,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	6,200
Newcastle.. 02½	%	25,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	8,000
Port Hope.. 19	%	190,000		Municipal taxes, 1918 ....	87,000

Totals .. . . . .	\$1,000,000	\$401,300
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It is clear, therefore, that for each \$1 now levied for municipal taxation, every ratepayer will have to pay annually to the Dominion Treasury, under the U.F.O. policy, in Bowmanville, \$2; Cavan, \$2; Cartwright, \$2.50; Clarke, \$2.75; Darlington, \$3; Hope, \$2; Manvers, \$3.75; Millbrook, \$3; and Port Hope, \$2.25.

If, for instance, your tax bill in Darlington is \$75, multiply that amount by \$3, your payment to the Finance Minister at Ottawa will be \$225 every year.

Every elector may figure out what his Dominion tax will be under such a policy by looking up his own municipal tax bill.

And against this taxing proposition of the U.F.O., I am unalterably opposed, and I am supported in this course by the policy and traditions of the Liberal policy, just as Mr. T. A. Reid is supported in his course by the policy of the Party of which he is the nominee in this Riding.

Upon this issue alone there is a clear and distinct line of cleavage between Mr. Reid and myself. Whatever doubt there may be upon other questions there is no possible doubt on this.

I think I can, therefore, appeal not only to the farmers of this Riding, but to the general electorate for their support in opposition to any proposal to abolish Customs duties in favor of direct taxation.

W. T. R. PRESTON.