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C. F. HAYES,
Business Manager.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1910.

A SUSPICIOUS PROPOSAL.

The Ottawa Free Press imagines it has found a way to end the cruel war. It would have the protected interests and the unprotected consumers lie down together under the joint guardianship of a permanent tariff commission. This supervising body would "collect and tabulate statistics, watch "the trend of trade, enquire into the "reasonableness of 'infant industries' "that have been protected or are "seeking protection, ascertain how "much the increased cost of living in "Canada is due to the protective tariff, "spot and find remedies for injustices "immediately they come into existence, see whether it is worth while "longer to bonus the steel industries, "hear the complaints of any who may "have them to make." Some power would be reserved to the representatives of the people. "The responsibility of changing the tariff should "finally be left in the hands of Government and Parliament. We would "rely upon the commission to create "public opinion—and utilize the force "of that public opinion—after the "manner of the conciliation boards "under Hon. Mackenzie King's Labor "act." The commission would report to the Government and to Parliament and in the event of the commission and the Government disagreeing, Parliament would act as a kind of official referee to settle the dispute. This provision is at least wise, for it is easy to conceive of circumstances under which the services of Parliament in the capacity of peace-maker would be frequently and pressingly required.

The trouble about this arrangement is that the commission would be likely to look for what it wanted to find—or would be accused of doing so by nearly half the people of the country, no matter which direction its investigations took. Men do not lightly lay aside their convictions and prejudices on the question of the tariff. Certainly it is no inducement to them to do so to appoint them to a body clothed with large powers to make the views of its members effective. The chances are therefore that the direction of the inquiries instituted by the board would be determined by the economic faith of the majority of its members. If these were protectionists they naturally—and perhaps unconsciously—would be chiefly concerned in discovering "infant industries" which might be nursed into maturity by a higher tariff. If low-tariff sentiment prevailed among the members they would quite as naturally have an eye for instances of where the consumer was being hindered by a tariff-fostered trust. What the commission would find would therefore most likely depend on which way the members of the body had been accustomed to think on the tariff question. And even if that were not so it would be believed to be so. So long as the commission did nothing, nobody would be the better or worse for its existence; but the moment it moved in one direction or the other, that moment nearly half the people in the country must rise up to call it partisan. Its role as a peace-maker could be only maintained while it stood idle. If it did anything it must provoke war rather than preserve the peace. And if it did this it would merely shift the battleground, and instead of fighting about the tariff we would be fighting about the tariff commission—a much less profitable and desirable kind of warfare.

Suspicion in fact attaches to the proposal of a permanent tariff commission. The circumstances make it so. There was no proposal of this kind in the palmy days of high tariff, when the manufacturer decided what duty should be paid on articles which came into competition with his own. Nobody then suggested that a semi-irresponsible board of commissioners be put to investigate the working of the tariff, to eliminate inequalities, remedy grievances and preserve the peace. It is only when things are reversed that the commission is called for; when the long triumphant "interest" has been shorn of its power, when the tariff has been successively reduced, when public opinion is overwhelming in the demand for further reduction, and when negotiations are about to be opened looking to a reciprocity arrangement with the United States. And who is asking for a permanent tariff commission with extensive powers of inquiry and recommendation? Certainly not the consumer. He does not need a commission to tell him what he wants. The demand has come often from the manufacturers' quarters in recent years that the tariff should be taken "out of politics," and the proposal for a permanent commission looks too much like a cunningly devised scheme for getting it out. It would be useless to create such a body without giving it power to do something with the tariff—by recommendation and report to the Government. And to give it that power would be to give it the power to block the movement for tariff reduction, if not even the power to gradually and insidiously work the schedules back more nearly to their former level. Could a commission, independent—which means irresponsible—in character, be interposed between the people and their representatives, a barrier would be raised, against which it might with reason be hoped the popular demand would waste its strength in vain. The fewer the obstacles that stand between the people and their representatives, the more likely are the people to get what they want and the less likely is private interest to attach its feeders to the tariff schedules.

TO THE RESCUE.

A few months ago the Toronto News was counselling its party to launch upon a campaign of wholesale deception in hope of alienating the low tariff vote from the Government. The country, it argued, has become so convinced of the benefits of low tariff that a party openly advocating high tariff stands little hope of attaining power. The News thought a convention should be called and a resolution adopted which would tend to persuade the public that the Opposition was not the out and out champion of protection it had been and was still believed to be. Since the tour of the West by the Premier, however, there has been a marked change in the view point of this journal, and it is now assailing the advocates of low tariff daily and preaching the virtues of protection without reserve. Where it stands and where it would have the party stand is no longer a matter of doubt. A few days ago it summarized its creed in what it called 18 reasons why a reciprocity treaty should not be negotiated with the United States. This is the list:

1. The Dominion is abundantly prosperous.

2. The United States tariff against Canadian goods is far higher than the Canadian tariff on United States goods.

3. Under present conditions American capital is pouring into this country and establishing Canadian branches of great United States industries.

4. Canada's industries could not stand against a flood of imports from the heavily capitalized and specializing trusts of the Republic.

5: Reciprocity would have the effect of turning over much trade and traffic to United States shippers and to United States railways and ports.

6. Reciprocity in manufactures would depopulate our industrial centres, while reciprocity in natural products would check the new national conservation movement and conflict with the efforts of Ontario and Quebec to compel the manufacture of Crown land timber and pulpwood in this country.

7. Reciprocity and tariff reform are not necessarily linked.

8. The United States Steel Trust's absolute control of the Canadian galvanized wire and barbed wire market prevents the farmers reaping any benefits from the removal of the duty on these articles.

9. Canada is under no obligation to go to the assistance of the Republican party, and pull its fat out of the fire.

10. If the United States movement for tariff revision downwards has any vitality we shall get a more favorable entry for our goods into the Republic without yielding anything in return.

11. The signing of a reciprocity treaty with the United States would lessen the Canadian preference on British goods, and ruin the broad movement for inter-Imperial perferences towards which the Empire has been working steadily for some years.

12. Any tariff concessions that Washington might make would probably have a "joker" secreted somewhere.

13. Authorities say that free trade in coal would greatly cripple the Nova Scotia Government by depriving it of a larger proportion of the income it now derives from coal royalties.

14. We cannot afford to give up a stable market in Great Britain for an uncertain opening in the United States that may be closed by a sudden revolution of political feeling such as that which occurred forty-four years ago.

15. There is a growing suspicion that some of the advocates of reciprocity may be in the pay of those wealthy interests across the line which could afford to subscribe almost any sum to secure a free run of the Canadian markets.

16. A great majority of Canadians, whether they be Liberals of Conservatives, are opposed to further tariff concessions to the United States.

17. Many American advocates of reciprocity frankly regard it as a step towards political fusion.

18. National and Imperial interests demand that we make no entangling trade treaty with our great neighbor, that we stand by the Empire and our own industries, transportation systems and seaports, and that we do any negessary tariff tinkering with a view to our own position and without regard to the United States.

Some of these reasons are obviously in error; as for instance that the conclusion of such treaty would lessen the value of the British preference. That a reduction in the duty on United States goods might be accompanied by a reduction in the duty on British goods which would leave the advantage enjoyed by the latter as great as it is today does not seem to have occurred to the News and those who agree with it, or if it has occurred to them it is ignored in hope of establishing an unsound argument against a reduction on United States goods. This aside however, of the reasons advanced how many of them are framed from the standpoint of the consumer? Be their weight what it may, every reason in the list is a reason advanced from the standpoint of the Canadian manufacturer and railway owner. Their interests are the only ones considered. That there are consumers in the country, or that they have any right to consideration in the adjustment of the tariff, receives no acknowledgment. The whole object of the tariff, according to this standard, should be to make the captain of industry and the railway chief prosperous, with the supposition perhaps that they would share the spoils won from the general community with that section of the community which happens to be in their employ. There is nothing surprisingly new in this view, nor in the fact that it is championed by the News; but that it is being promulgated vigorously in that paper now puts down its late proposal to fish for the low tariff vote as an absolute and unmixed attempt to stampede its party into a policy of treasonable deception to those voters who favor a reduction in the tariff or the preservation of the present moderate duties. Whatever else the Premier's trip has accomplished, it has brought the advocates of high tariff promptly into the lists wearing their rightful colors and championing the cause of the old time allies as valiantly as ever. The low tariff pennant no longer flutters from their lances. While there was no prospect of a straight challenge on the tariff question it was well enough to court the favor of the consumer by occasionally showing his colors on the field. But when the proposal to reduce the tariff was put before the country as something to be done and done in the near future, this flirting became more dangerous than profitable. To continue it was to risk the allegiance of the industrial and commercial interests whose champion the party has always been and without whose help it has no chance of success. It was all well enough to coax deserters from the enemy by deception so long as the allies understood that it was deception; but when the battle is on is no time to take chances on such tactics being understood. "To your tents, O Israel," was then the word, and the News scurried for its weapons as fast as any of them. Now it is out again, armed to the teeth, and manfully plying its weapons on behalf of its menaced friends.

SEND OUT THE COLONEL.

Of ten balloons sent up in St. Louis last Monday, more than half blew across and landed in Canada. Three of them were of German make, two were Swiss, and one was of French manufacture. This is enough to send Colonel Sam Hughes, M.P., into hysterics. Here are a half dozen very costly and highly complicated pieces of machinery, the product of foreign ingenuity, capital and labor, "dumped" on Canadian soil literally and unceremoniously. Their owners paid no duty at the boundary and have given no guarantee that they will not sell them to some Canadian consumer of balloons. Why should the Canadian market be "flooded" with balloons made in over-crowded Europe, where wages are low and the cost of manufacture correspondingly small? In the name of the Canadian Balloon Trust—if such body there be—it is not fair. And if there is no such body there might be one, and according to the Protectionist theory it is our duty to boost the tariff till one comes into existence and waxes fat on the proceeds of the unjust tribute it is allowed to lay upon the poor man who wants to go for a sail among the clouds. Balloons can be made in Canada; therefore, the tariff should be made so high no foreign balloon could get over it; so runs the theory of the protectionist. So glaring an instance of the invasion of our market by the foreigner cannot go unnoticed and unprotested. And who knows but that these invading craft were loaded to the gun'el—or whatever corresponds thereto—with German cutlery, Swiss watches and French wines? That, in fact, the whole "balloon race" was not engineered as a smooth scheme for sending foreign goods over the heads of the customs officers and slaughtering them—the goods—in the Canadian market? And if a "race" of that kind may be held once a year, why not once a month? Again our industries are menaced by the cunning of the foreigner. The matter should be looked into. The balloons should be inspected. There may be feathers in the gas-bags, jewellery in the hollow rods and braces, and all sorts of things hidden under double floors in the baskets. Worse still—who can say that these aerial craft are not military balloons, populated by artists, photographers and spies, sent to reconnoitre our frontiers, to make drawings of our fortresses from above, and to generally size up the defensibility of our position? Military as well as economic reasons demand their examination. And who so well qualified to make the inquiry as the candid Colonel from Lindsay? Who so combines an enthusiasm for tariff protection with zeal for military protection? Who would subject the foreign craft to more rigid inspection in every part, or apprehend them more blithely on the slightest suspicion? The valiant Colonel would go over them with monkey wrench and microscope and woe betide the luckless aeronaut in whose machine was found anything that might be sold to a Canadian consumer, or anything that might convey information to a foreign power. To the gallant Colonel one offence would be about as bad as the other, and either about as bad as could be. Cameras or Cognac, blueprints or butcher knives, drawings or patent movements, would condemn the balloon to confiscation and its occupants to custody. Literature would gain as well, for the Colonel only lays his sword aside to take his pen in hand and tell what he has done with it. The records of Parliament have been immortalized by epistles from the worthy Colonel, then sweating on the bloody veldt. Nor did he toil through the sands of Africa for nothing. He captured some Boers, so he informed the world, though in a post script he conveyed the further information that the conscienceless rascals ran away when he was not looking. However, we have his word for it that he caught them. That, with his known accomplishments, establishes his fitness for the job of rounding up these invading craft. If it has not already been done he should be commissioned to turn out the Victoria Rifles, make forced marches to Lake Nipissing, and overhaul the Harburg III., which has landed there. Thence he could make a bee-line through the wilds of Northern Quebec for La Tuque, whence others are reported. He might not get back in time for the session, but duty before pleasure is the motto of the soldier.

When aerial navigation has made a little more progress, trying to collect duty will be about as pleasant and profitable a job as trying to catch mosquitoes. It would be well, therefore, to put a protectionist on the job of balloon-catching at once and let him learn that the days of his pet theory on this earth are numbered.

China now has an Opposition, and the Opposition is demanding a Parliament. As usual with the Oriental way of doing things, this seems to the western mind to be getting the cart ahead of the horse. However, it is better to get along cart ahead than not at all, and the evolution of Celestial things now under way is big with possibilities for China and the world. The getting of a Parliament should aid the growth of national spirit, and when the national spirit of China becomes strong enough to kill off local prejudices and move the immense population in a forward direction, there will be a readjustment in the scheme of international relationships and politics. China is and has been something like the whale, who, despite his great bulk, is the victim of the smaller but better armed and more aggressive sword-fish. But there the analogy ends, for the nation can change its weapons and also its disposition. The clamor for a Parliament is one of the many signs that the disposition of the Chinese people is changing fast. Once it has become that of the western peoples, from whom the example is taken, the national equipment, political, as well as naval and military will be altered to meet the requirements and to make the national will effective. When that is done the Chinaman will have considerable to say as to how the world's affairs are to be run.

Lame back is one of the most common forms of muscular rheumatism. A few applications of Chamberlain' Liniment will give relief. For sale at all dealers.

Another financial "wizard" has disappeared, one Sheldon, of Montreal, and the police, the newspapers and a few hundred sobered and sorry creditors are on his trail, or trying to find it. Perhaps it will be better for Montreal and the public generally, if they do not catch him. Sheldon ran some new kind of a shell-game in connection with the stock-market and announced that by his "system" he would be able to pay his "clients" bigger dividends than anyone has a right to expect from a legitimate investment. Naturally his "clients" were numerous and they entrusted him with sums large and small, totalling an enormous amount, each of course expecting a fortune in return. When the cash-box got full enough Sheldon disappeared presumably taking it with him. Now his "clients" are calling him a thief and stirring up the police of the continent to catch him. His accusers should remember the adage about glass-houses. If he is a thief, they too are thieves, in intent, if not in fact. The worst they can properly say about him is that he was the leader of the gang and that he robbed his pals instead of fleecing the appointed victims and dividing up the loot. They put their money with him knowing—if they knew anything—that the returns he promised could only be won by gambling and then only if the tricks came his way regularly. They believed he had found a way to stack the cards and were fools enough to think a man who had found that would take the public for his partner. They expected to use Sheldon as the instrument for taking money out of other people's pockets without giving them anything in return. What right have they to howl when they find their own feet in the snare they thought they were laying for others? If they had the merit of being even good "sports" they would take their lesson in silence. That is all they are likely to get for their money anyway, and all they deserve.

In an interview in Vancouver, Sir William Priestly pointed out that the heavy investment of British money in Canada and other over-sea Dominions is not decreasing the capital employed in the industries of Great Britain. Last year, income tax was paid in Great Britain on 400 million pounds, this great sum representing the profits derived from British capital in the preceding year. It is estimated that 150 millions have been put into Canadian investments this year by London financiers. Britain is not emptying her coffers into the channels of over-sea investment, but merely putting out through these channels some of the enormous income drawn from the money already put into industries in the old lands and elsewhere, and into the vessels which carry most of the world's commerce across the seas. Free trade, whatever it has not done, has allowed Britain to grow to the happy status of the man whose money brings him in far more than he spends on his living and who has a large balance to invest at the end of the year.

Mr. Balfour seems to use the "German menace" somewhat as Mr. Bismarck used to use the French menace—to detract attention from his troubles at home. Many of those of Mr. Balfour's party do not appear to be altogether satisfied with his championship of the "tariff reform" cause. They think he makes war in rather too easy-going a fashion for a wholehearted convert. Accordingly, a group of the manufacturers, landowners, publicans and other sinners who stand to profit from the imposition of a tariff and the repeal of the Lloyd-George taxes, got together the other day and resolved to impress upon their leader the overwhelming importance of securing as early relief from their distress as possible. Mr. Balfour's reply was worthy the Iron Chancellor. He went to Glasgow and there made a speech—on the pressing necessity of maintaining the navy in a state of efficiency and preponderance.

The city council did well to decide to put the project for an east end bridge before the rate-payers. The usefulness of the bridge is affording a ready means of access to the city for the farmers of the Clover Bar district is apparent. The volume of traffic passing over the present bridge is more than it can properly accommodate an deven when the high level is opened, so rapidly are the cities and date and even when the high level is the volume on the present structure must still be large. During the present summer Strathcona has begun to bridge Mill Creek, thus giving easy entrance to that city for the farmers to the east and unless means are provided for a better way into Edmonton than at present exists from that direction a portion of the trade which else would come here must be expected to go to the sister city. If the new bridge can be built for a sum at all within reason it should be gone on with next summer.

Engineers of the Dominion Government are removing the boulders from the Grand Rapids of the Athabasca in order to make this stretch of the northern waterways easier and safer of navigation. It is expected when the work has been completed river boats can run the rapids loaded at all times of the season. Hitherto they have at certain seasons been unloaded above the rapids and the goods portaged across an island lying in mid-stream. The boats were let down by lines and reloaded below the rapids. The delay and expense involved was considerable on each boat load of goods and the improvement will affect a material cheapening in the cost of transporting the enormous quantities of supplies sent down each year to the trading posts in the far north.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Buffalo Express—The man about to pay his fare on a pay-as-you-enter car dropped a quarter, which fell to the platform and rolled off across the pavement into an opening, where it disappeared.

The loser watched its course.

"It wouldn't have gone half as far if I'd spent it," he said.

Human Life—"I tell you I must have some money!" roared the King of Maritana, who was in sore financial straits. "Somebody will have to cough up."

"Alas!" sighed the guardian of the treasury, who was formerly the court jester, "all our coffers are empty."

Chicago News—The young housekeeper was looking at some live chickens in a coop.

"Yes," said the dealer. "I'll kill and dress a couple of them and send them over to your house."

"Well," rejoined the young housekeeper, hesitatingly, "if you are positive they are fresh you may."

Puck—Mrs. Blase—Have you begun your suit for divorce?

Mrs. Highup—No, but I've begun the suit I'm going to wear when I get my divorce!

Life—"Bilter says he is waked up every morning at 4."

"What does he keep a rooster, a baby or a grandpa?"

Chicago Tribune—Smiling Cisitor (addressing the Sunday school)—Now, children, I want to ask you a question. Will some little boy tell me who Adam was?

Tommy Tucker—Adam was the man that made the devil famous.

Puck—Woggs—So young Saphead and his father are carrying on the business?

Boggs—Yes. The old man does the business while young Saphead does the carying on.

New Haven Register—"How do you cuppose the fires of romance are kindled?"

"I should judge by love matches."

Fliegende Blaetter—He—Why does the maid decline to clean my coat with benzine?

She—Since the chauffeur jilted her she can't stand the smell of it.

Boston Transcript—Blabb—Why do large women so often marry small men?

Crabb—They can't intimidate the big ones.

Detroit Free Press—"Do you believe in love at first sight?"

"Sure. It boosts my business."

"How so?"

"I'm a divorce court lawyer."

Boston Transcript. —Mrs. Caudle—Henry, did you miss me the night I was away?

Mr. Claude—No, I went to a lecture.

Harper's Weekly—Farmer Smallseel—Listen to this, Elviry. These papers say that they have found in Italian prisons the petrified remains of some of the prisoners.

His Wife—Do tell; that must be them hardened criminals we hear about.

Washington Star—"How large is the apartment house you live in?"

"Well, I don't remember the exact dimensions," replied Mr. Flatson, "but it's so big that when we asked the janitor for heat on Sunday morning steam didn't get around to the radiator till the next Thursday."

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