

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 18, 1913
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REVISE THE TARIFF

It is very evident from what one reads in the press, and especially the Tory press, that the protectionists have taken alarm, and realize that they must do their best to break the force of the arguments of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his plea for a reduced cost of living, as well as the demand of the western farmers for a lower tariff. Protectionists everywhere are now asserting that tariff reduction will not lower the cost of living, and that to remove the food taxes would greatly injure the farmer. The farmers in New Brunswick who are now selling their products in the United States market at higher prices than they could obtain in the Canadian market, are not at all worried over this matter; while the local consumer, seeing local prices advance, is very naturally asking in what direction he may look for some compensating advantage, so that he may not suffer so much from a jag-handled reciprocity. The Standard is somewhat worried over the sad case of the fruit growers, if they were compelled to meet competition from the United States; but the fruit growers themselves know that they have absolutely nothing to fear in that quarter.

So long as manufacturers are concerned, they have had a long period of high protection, and should now be in a position as to enable them to carry on their business with success even if some reductions in the tariff were made, especially along the line of an increase in the British preference. When the people are sorely pressed by the increasing cost of living, and find also that there is an increase of unemployment, they will not contentedly accept the assurances of protected interests that everything is satisfactory, and that the existing conditions should not be disturbed lest worse befall. The conditions must be disturbed and improved, and tariff revision downward is one of the means to be employed; if not by the Borden government, then by a government led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

THE BURDEN-BEARERS

A recent issue of the Amherst News told the pathetic story of a hard working mechanic who had a wife and six children, and who lived in what was intended to be the kitchen of a larger house, but he was forced to live in a room to do the work from year to year. This kitchen he had built himself, covering the bare boards with tar-paper to shut out the wind. There was one room downstairs and a divided apartment above. One night last week he came home from work and went to bed. A little later, hearing him moaning, his wife went to his side and found him dead. There was not a dollar in the house, and but a limited supply of provisions, while the children were scantily clad.

This is a peculiarly sad story to be told just on the eve of Christmas. There can be no doubt the generous people of Amherst will see to it that this man's wife and children do not suffer during the holiday season; but the long years stretch away before this mother and her six children, and the burden resting upon her is a heavy one.

And yet, there are many pitiful cases of poverty and suffering and death, if those who have abundance to give would take the trouble to seek them out, or ask the officials of the charitable agencies concerning them. It is perfectly true that permanent improvement of conditions will never be secured by mere acts of charity. There must be careful investigation of social conditions, and some very important changes must be made, and it is a task which cannot be completed in a year or in a generation; but in the meantime, wherever there are cases approaching in any degree, in the paths of their appeal, to the Amherst case which has been cited, the hand of a helpful generosity at this Christmas season should not be withheld.

THE LAND QUESTION

While opinions appear to differ with regard to the policy of enabling small farmers in the mother country to become land owners, it is said that among the farmers themselves there is a desire to attain an independent position and to live on and cultivate small holdings of their own. A correspondent of the Manchester Guardian quotes the following statement from an old man who has taken a holding with his son in Yorkshire, and who was for thirty-six years a foreman on the big farm before it was broken up.

"All I can say is this. It's a pity this sort of thing wasn't done years ago. It's a fine thing to think you're your own master and that all the work you do is really for yourself. It means you feel you've summed to live for!"

Commenting on the whole subject, a representative of the Guardian adds the following interesting testimony:

"This new spirit of hope and an agreeable sense of independence is to be found in nearly all the colonies of small holders. The work is hard, and in many cases it will be two or three years before financial stability can be secured, but the horizon of the men has widened. This is especially noticeable in conversation with those who have been farm laborers, and who have saved a modest

amount of capital after years of hard toil and more than Spartan frugality. It is true that some of the holders have failed, that there are potential failures among the existing tenants, and that the measure of success which has been achieved might have been far greater if some of the holders had known better how to adopt a more intensive system of culture, or had realized the wisdom of buying the best-class milking cows, instead of applying ordinary farm methods to small areas. But when this has been allowed for, my inquiries among all classes of tenants, on holdings of widely different size and character, prove at least that sufficient experience has been gained to justify a forward movement on national lines, such as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has foreshadowed.

The Times not long ago quoted an expression of opinion from a landlord who was heartily in favor of the Lloyd George land scheme, but who expressed the view that to secure ownership of the land would in most cases so deplete the small farmers' capital that in the majority of cases they would probably prefer to lease the land, under conditions which would save them from summary and unfair eviction, and keep their capital intact to carry on their farming operations. No doubt there is a good deal of force in this contention, and yet it may be regarded as certain that wherever a farmer could effect a purchase, and have thereafter a little capital with which to carry on his operations, he would very much prefer to feel, like this Yorkshire farmer, that he was "his own master," and that he had "summed to live for."

The Canadian potato is on trial today at Washington, not because of any defect, but because American potato growers fear that it will reduce their profits.

The Canadian banks have had a profitable year. Some of their customers who have felt the pinch of tight money have not been quite so fortunate.

The new Allan liner Alsatian on her trial trip attained a speed over a measured mile of 24 1/2 knots. This is one of the steamships which ought to have come to St. John before the close of the winter port season.

One reason why the Borden government is opposed to tariff reduction is that its friends, the highly protected interests, do not want any change, and the other is that a reduced revenue would give this extravagant government less money to spend. And it must have the money.

The C. P. R. has complained that the I. C. R. authorities were not giving a satisfactory service in connection with the trains handling the traffic of the Empress steamships at Halifax. Upon being told that the conditions must be improved, the government humbly gave its assurance that the cause of complaint would be removed. It is a great thing to be able to get whatever one wants from a government.

The St. Andrews Beacon is campaigning with great vigor for the development of the port of St. Andrews, and in this week's issue devotes a good deal of space to a statement of the advantages of St. Andrews. Incidentally it observes:—"The only way to put an end to this everlasting quarrel between St. John and Halifax, is to make St. Andrews and the St. Croix the national winter port of Canada."

The fact that the Liberals had a banquet in Montreal recently appears to have caused a severe shock in Tory circles. There is no danger, however, of the Liberals getting the Tory habit of feasting frequently and upon the slightest pretext. There have been more banquets for Tories in the last two years than ever before in the history of the country.

The members of the Asquith government continue publicly to declare the willingness of the government to receive any proposals Sir Edward Carson and his friends may desire to make relative to a settlement of the Irish question, so long as the principle of the Home Rule bill is not attacked. The Carsonians, however, pay no attention, although they are perhaps a little less violent in their utterances than they were some time since. They realize now that the government cannot be bluffed.

Premier Fleming told the Times yesterday that the St. John Valley Railway would cross the St. John and Kennebec rivers and come in to terminals on the eastern side of the harbor. Nothing will be done, however, so far as actual work is concerned, until the site of the bridges has been located and the legislature has discussed the question. The delay is most regrettable, since it will delay the coming of Grand Trunk Pacific traffic to this port. That traffic will be coming to Moncton before the end of next year.

BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
William Sanford Evans, one of Winnipeg's principal citizens and an ex-mayor of the city, was born in Spencerville, Ontario, forty-four years ago today. He started life as a newspaper man and held important positions on the editorial staffs of newspapers in New York, Toronto and Winnipeg, retiring from the press in 1906 to go in for finance.

Right Rev. Joseph Lothhouse of Keeweenaw, the first bishop of Keeweenaw, was born in Yorkshire, England, on December 18, 1835. He came out as a missionary to Western Canada in 1864 and after being stationed at Fort York and Churchill on Hudson's Bay was elected bishop in 1902.

Hon. C. H. LaBille, who was for a long time a member of the New Brunswick legislature and from 1891 to 1908 a member of the government, was born in Dalhousie, N. B., on Dec. 18, 1856.

LIGHTER VEIN

Frozen Out
I courted a maid. She said I must work And earn the needed gold.

Like a Little Lady
"Why Ruth!" exclaimed the little girl's mother, "you came downstairs so noisily that I heard you way back in the kitchen."

Charming.
"Has he a charming address?"
"Yes, it's the Millonidust Apartments."

Count 'Em
"I see that twenty-seven lives were lost in a shipwreck."

Now He Knows
"Really," began Mrs. Nagg, "the inquisitiveness of those people next door has driven me crazy!"

One on the Magistrate
Magistrate—Have you been arrested on any previous charge?
Prisoner—No, sir.

Getting On
We feel the past has been worth while,
That future days will be serene,
Each one of us displays a smile;
Though rough and long the road has been.

The laurel wreath is on each brow,
Success has crowned the light we fought,
Pa has an automobile now.

The cost of living still is high,
Pa'd no so rich as he once was,
Proud money still pass mother by
Unnoticed. There are debts we owe
That must be paid, but we don't fret
And unto grief and worry bow;
We're getting on in life, you bet,
Pa has an automobile now.

WE FEEL THE PAST HAS BEEN WORTH WHILE, THAT FUTURE DAYS WILL BE SERENE, EACH ONE OF US DISPLAYS A SMILE; THOUGH ROUGH AND LONG THE ROAD HAS BEEN.

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What a Nice Variety of Novelties, Useful Goods and Fancy Articles That is What They All Say.

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DOLLS of every description one of the best assortments Canada. 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 45c, 50c, 60c, 7c to \$10.00 Each.

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CRYSTALLIZED CHERRIES, PEARS, PEACHES, PLUMS, APRICOTS.

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SEAMEN GIVE CONCERT. A very successful concert was for the sailors in the Seamen's Inst last evening when the rooms and gym were both crowded to their utmost capacity.

L. Lionel Harrison gave a Dickens monologue which was much appreciated by the audience.

The remainder of the programme was as follows: Comic song by H. Smith; song, 'The Flight of Ages,' by R. G. McDonald; song, 'The Truth of a Lie,' by S. Cole; comic song, 'I Rang My Little Bell and Ran Away,' by S. Hughes; 'The Story of a Tin Tack,' humorous monologue by the same; comic song, 'Bob Down, You're Spotted!' by A. Bustin; song, 'Thora,' by G. Lawson; dance, 'Jack Langley,' comic song, 'Just as the Sun Goes Down,' by A. Bustin; song and dance, 'Sullivan,' by C. Hogan.

John S. Charlton acted as chairman and E. Oswald Benn was accompanist. The profits of the concert will be spent in aid of the Seamen's mission. Daily refreshments were served during the evening.

ARTHUR FLOYD, a recent graduate of N. B. who is now on the staff of Bathurst N. B. Grammar School, has accepted a position in the schools at Sackville at a salary of \$2,200 per annum.