

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1920

TARIFF COMMISSION.

At its last meeting the Moncton Board of Trade adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, we are informed by a recent statement of the Minister of Finance that the Dominion Government contemplates holding a series of Custom Tariff investigations through the agency of a committee of Cabinet members, visiting the principal centres of Canada and hearing an expression of opinion from all classes.

"And whereas we are convinced that this method of investigation will only succeed in accumulating a vast stock of unsorted and unsorted opinions, contradictory and largely theoretical, which will be of small value or little assistance in arriving at a tariff law satisfactory to the people or beneficial to the National welfare;

"Therefore resolved, that we earnestly petition the Minister of Finance, Members of the Dominion Government Cabinet that they abandon their express intention of holding Cabinet investigations and that instead a permanent Advisory Tariff Board be appointed representative of the different classes of Canadian citizens and including the best qualified experts not curable, whose functions will be the continuous investigation of Domestic and Foreign conditions, whereby the framing of a Tariff may be reduced to a scientific basis and conducive to the best interests of the Canadian people."

The Canadian Railroader, a weekly labor paper, published in Montreal, has printed a list of 800 trade unions and labor councils which have endorsed the idea of the appointment of a permanent Tariff Commission upon which labor should have representation. Such a commission, it says, is needed in the interests of Canadian workers, of small manufacturers and of producers who are combining new and old processes of production. According to the Railroader, it is the development of small manufacturing industries that is desired by the workers, because the larger the number of manufacturers the greater security of employment the workers will have, without losing the personal relation, which is absent in large scale enterprises.

The suggestion is that a Canadian Tariff Board should proceed on lines similar to the United States Tariff Commission. It would make a scientific study of industrial conditions in this country, find out how competition is influenced by labor conditions, and report on the effect of tariff schedules. It would have the right to recommend changes in the tariff, but the Government and Parliament would determine whether or not effect should be given to the recommendations. The value of the work of such a commission would lie in the development of a body of reliable information about industries and the effects of tariffs. With this information at hand revision of the tariff could be made without danger of disastrous effects to any industry, and any feature of the tariff which may operate to promote monopoly or injustice to related industries or to the consuming public could be dealt with with reasonable assurance that the effects aimed at would be secured.

While the tariff question remains a mere football of party politics, there is little informative discussion, and less chance to check party statements by authoritative facts. The issue is confused. Both Mr. Crerar and Mr. King say they would place on the free list a wide variety of things that have been on the free list for years, while their statements as to the effect of tariff are of a general kind whose value so far as the public is concerned is discounted by other statements, equally general in character, and of a different purport. A tariff commission would not remove the tariff question from politics; on the contrary it would tend to promote authoritative political discussion of the tariff, which is a desideratum of first importance.

The Canadian Railroader says that it is very evident from the resolutions that are pouring in from all parts of the Dominion that the sentiment in favor of the establishment of a tariff commission is very strong.

SOUTH AMERICA FOR PROTECTION.

Various South American countries are raising their customs duties with the object of encouraging home manufacturing. Acting in accordance with the recommendations of the special commission appointed to revise the customs tariff, the President of Paraguay has issued a decree dated September 27, 1919, increasing substantially the fixed official valuations on which ad valorem import duties are assessed. The increases amount to 20 per cent. in jewelry, clocks, watches and silverware; 30 per cent. on leather and tanned skins; 40 per cent. on musical instruments and cotton goods; 50 per cent. on furniture and common boots and shoes; 60 per cent. on other textiles, cloth, drugs, chemicals, chinaware, glassware, hardware, cutlery, machinery and a large range of other

commodities. In the case of fine toilet soaps, cosmetics and perfumes, the increase is 80 per cent.; and in the case of wines and liquors 100 per cent. The effect of the increases in official valuations is to advance the duty by the same percentage in each case, although the ad valorem rates themselves remain unchanged. The new decree became effective on October 1, 1919.

With a few exceptions all goods specified as free in the customs tariff of Argentina are now dutiable at the rate of 5 per cent. ad valorem, while all ad valorem rates of 20 per cent. or more have been increased by surtaxes amounting to 7 per cent. ad valorem. For goods dutiable at no less than 10 per cent. but less than 20 per cent. the surtax is 2 per cent. ad valorem. The tariff of Uruguay has also been increased by a surtax. When the tariff duty is more than 12 per cent. ad valorem the surtax is 14 per cent. ad valorem; when the rate is 9 to 12 per cent. the surtax is 9 per cent. ad valorem. In all other cases, including the "free list," the surtax is 4 per cent.

A NOTABLE WEEK.

The present week has been of more than ordinary interest in the development of works of a charitable and philanthropic nature in St. John. Not only has the Municipal Council decided for the fifth or sixth time to ask tenders for the construction of a Nurses' Home, but organizations which already enjoy records of accomplishment have materially extended their activities. The Provincial Memorial Home for Children was formally opened on Tuesday of this week and promises to fill a large place in the task of caring for unfortunate children in New Brunswick. The Canadian Women's Hostel, conducted by the Federal Government and local organizations of women, has this week been opened, and for the future will devote itself to the care of female immigrants, particularly demobilized war workers from Britain who seek homes in Canada. The Y. W. C. A. recreation centre on King Street East is now under way, extending a welcome to hundreds of young women of this City and Province who have few other opportunities for enjoying a social hour, for study, and for recreation. Besides these important institutions of a material nature, the Red Cross has undertaken the responsibility of providing a trained nurse for the care of tubercular patients, and various Chapters of the Daughters of the Empire have promised within the last few days to provide sufficient funds for the engagement of an additional nurse of the Victorian Order, whose time will be devoted to child welfare. St. John is to be congratulated on these accomplishments, and particularly on the extremely valuable efforts of the women connected with our various local organizations.

NEW BRUNSWICK POLITICS AND UNION.

Ottawa Journal: "Commenting upon the fact that Premier Foster of New Brunswick appeared upon Mr. Mackenzie King's platform when that gentleman last week addressed a political gathering in St. John, our neighbor the Citizen remarks:

"Yet, in the 1917 Federal elections, Premier Foster led New Brunswick, abreast of the other Provinces, in support of Union Government for war emergency purposes."

"Premier Foster did nothing of the kind. What he did was to stay in a political funkhole and espouse neither one cause nor the other. As a matter of fact he was a Laurierite without the courage to say so. When sentiment in his Province swung, as it was bound to swing, to the side of what was British and right, he endeavored to pose as a Unionist, but the character of his Unionism was exemplified in a refusal of two invitations to speak for Unionist candidates. And if the Citizen, with its pretentiousness to knowledge of what is going on in New Brunswick will examine the election returns in that Province it will find that only two or three constituencies where Premier Foster's Government is in the ascendancy sent Unionists to Ottawa. His stronghold, the Acadian northern counties, were sold for Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

WHAT THEY SAY

One Bitten, Twice Shy.
 (New York Evening Sun.)
 When Germany once more launches into the competition for world trade, with her mass production and dumping and Government control, she will find Great Britain no longer the easy mark she once was.

Different Now.
 (Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
 The money in circulation averages \$47.38 for each person. But of course those figures were issued before Christmas and nobody expects you to have your share now.

A Question For Drury.
 (Galt Reporter.)
 What other English-speaking Commonwealth boasting Responsible Gov-

Prevent "Chaps"
—use warm water and Baby's Own Soap.

Wash in warm water with Baby's Own Soap—rinse well and dry perfectly—and your skin will be soft and never chap.

"Good for Baby and Good for You."
 (Albert Seale Limited, Ltd., Montreal.)

erment is in such a plight as Ontario, with men still in private life, so far as the ballot box shows, undertaking to administer public affairs and enforcing their views on public questions?

Work and Play.

(London Daily News.)
 Pipe as merrily as you will to the deaf, they will not dance. To enjoy the noble gift of leisure, men have still to learn to use it wisely. To say that that is a lost art is an exaggeration; but it has not yet been generally acquired. The sooner this knowledge becomes general the better; but it cannot be taught nor administered in any patent recipe. Every man must learn for himself that leisure, too, is a kind of business, and a serious one. There was that much truth in the old doctrine. Happiness does not come to the mere idler or trifler. "She crowns the unconscious head of the busy child."

A BIT OF VERSE

EDINBURGH.

City of mist and rain and blown grey spaces.

Dashed with wild wet color and the gleam of tears.

Dreaming in Holyrood halls of the passionate faces

Lifted to one Queen's face that has haunted places?

Are not the halls of thy memory haunted places?

Cometh there not as a moon (where the blood-red sears

Floors a flutter of old with silks and laces).

Gilding a ghostly Queen, through a mist of tears?

Proudly here, with a loftier pinnaced splendor

Throned in his northern Athens, what spells remain

Still on the marble lips of the Wizard, concentered the years.

Silent the gazer on glory without a stain?

Here and here, do we whisper, with hearts more tender.

Tussocks wandered through mist and rain;

Rainbow-eyed and frail and gallant and slender.

Dreaming of pirate-isles in a jeweled main.

Up the Canongate, climbeth, cleft as under

Raggedly here, with a glimpse of the distant sea.

Flashing through a crumbling alley, a glimpse of wonder.

Nay, for the city is throned on Eternity!

Hark! from the soaring castle a cannon's thunder

Closes an hour for the world and an aeon for me.

Gazing at last from the martial heights where under

Deathless memories roll to an ageless sea.

—Alfred Noyes.

Night Coughs
Prevent Sleep
WEAR OUT THE SYSTEM

The dry, hacking cough, cough, day and night is very wearing on the system. The constant coughing disturbs the rest and keeps the lungs and bronchial tubes in such an irritated and inflamed condition they get no chance to heal.

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It seemed to loosen the cough right away so that I could spit up the phlegm that gathered in my throat, and also took that hot, raw, burning fever out of my bronchial tubes. I feel that Dr. Wood's has no equal."

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday I was playing with my biding set in ma's room and ma was sewing holes out of stockings, and all of a sudden I sed, Ma, I smell muffins cooking.

Wich I did, and ma sed, So do I.

Can I have one before supper, ma? I sed.

If Nora wants to give it to you, sed ma, Nora being our cook and generally not wanting to give me things before supper, me thinking, O well, it wont hurt to ask her.

Wich I went down to the kitchen to do, thinking, Maybe if I give her a present first it will put her in good humor. And I looked in the kitchen door and Nora was unpumping a lot of muffins into a plate out of a pan, me saying, Hello Nora, how are you?

I bin better and I bin worse, sed Nora, Properly meaning she didnt feel very wonderful, and I reetched in my pants pocket and took out a little ball all made out of rubber bands, saying, Look at heer Nora wats you think of this?

I dont think of such things sed Nora.

It bounces twice as high as this room, I sed.

So will you if you dont get away from that door and stop bothering me, sed Nora.

You can have this ball if you want it Nora, do you want it?

I sed.

No, sed Nora.

Well, Ill jest put it heer on the dresser in case you happen to change your mind, I sed. Wich I did, and Nora went and got another pan of muffins out of the oven and unpumped them in a plate, and I sed, Give me one before supper, Nora?

Ill give you a dig in the ribs in a minnit, sed Nora. Meaning she wouldnt give me the muffin.

Then dont, I sed. And I took the rubber band ball an put it back in my pocket and went up stairs agen.

Forty-Nine Lose Lives.

Stockholm, Jan. 19.—Forty-nine of the crew of the steamer Marcona, before reported as having foundered off Nidingen Light, were lost, the only survivor being the second mate of the vessel.

Frozen in At Port.

An effort will be made to free the barkentine Whetson, which is frozen in at Philadelphia. She was loading a cargo of tarred oil for St. Louis de Rhone. Nagie & Wigmore are the agents.

MEN'S MACKINAW

worth \$16.00, Sale Price \$12.98; Mackinaws worth \$12.00 for \$8.98; boys' Mackinaws worth \$9.50, Sale Price, \$6.98, at Wilcox's January Sale, Cor. Charlotte and Union.

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Ladies' 2 Buckle and Button Overshoes. Sizes 2 1/2 to 8 \$2.50 to \$5.50

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