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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1913.

MR. FIELDING AND PROTECTION.

The Laurier party has a hard struggle ahead when it presents itself as the enemy of protection and the advocate of reduced taxation. A record of sixteen years' maintenance of protection and continually growing revenue from taxes is a hard thing to talk down. For only part of a year the Liberal Ministry stood for lower tariff and reduced protection. The Fielding tariff of 1887, as introduced in the budget speech made a considerable reduction in customs rates. But this tariff never become law, except as an interim measure. It was introduced in April and no further action was taken until the end of May. During the five weeks the Government were seen by a large number of persons interested, and then Mr. Fielding brought down amended resolutions practically restoring the protective tariff, which was retained while the party held office.

The one plea made by the apologists is that Mr. Fielding abolished specific duties, replacing them by ad valorem or duties or rates based on value. This one of the Liberal organs recently states was a blow at protection. On the contrary, the change has increased the protection. Mr. Fielding replaced duties based on quantities by equivalent duties based on prices. Prices increased on the average, say, fifty per cent. The duty paid and likewise the protection increased in the same ratio, whereas a specific duty on a given article would have remained the same. It is only when prices are falling that specific duties afford the best protection.

In the fiscal year 1895 the average rate of customs duty paid on goods entering Canada for consumption was 17 per cent. In the year that the Laurier Government left office it was 16 per cent., and this reduction was more than offset by increased excise duties, mainly on tobacco. But if the average price of commodities imported was only one-third higher in the later year, the increase in the actual duties paid on the same articles and in the protection would be represented by a raise from 17 per cent. to more than 21 per cent. As the matter has turned out the change from specific to ad valorem duties was the neatest and most valuable concession that Mr. Fielding could have made to protected interests.

PARCEL POST IMPROVEMENTS.

In the question of improvements to the United States parcel post, it is worth noting that zone abolition has had a prominent place. The modifications decided upon are the extension of the weight limit for parcels in the first or second zones—within a radius of 150 miles—from 11 pounds to 20 pounds, with rate reductions; the inauguration of a cash-on-delivery and insurance system, costing 10 cents extra per parcel; and the abolition of special stamps. The broadening of the service in these respects has encouraged a public demand that the eight zones be reduced to a less complicated area system. The zones at present are a radius of 50 miles, 150 miles, 300 miles, 600 miles, 1,200 miles, 1,800 miles, 2,400 miles and 3,000 miles and over. A flat rate being regarded as impracticable for the present, and somewhat undesirable, because it gives such a huge advantage to the mail order houses in the large centres, there is a demand for a simplification to three or four zones, embracing roughly the great natural divisions of the country.

This movement has an interest for Canada, because in his outline of the proposed Canadian system, Hon. Mr. Pelletier announced that the provinces would be zones, the three Maritime Provinces to constitute one. The only departure from this boundary arrangement would be a special rate for a local zone of 20 miles, protecting in a reasonable degree the country and small town merchants. That a very broad and uncomplicated zone system, such as the Canadian Postmaster General has had in mind, is easily attainable has been demonstrated by the American system. The first five months of its operation indicate probably net profits for 1913 of from $15,000,000 to $20,000,000. In April alone, 59,000,000 parcel post packages were handled, a gain of 54 per cent over the January record, the first operating month. The value of merchandise shipped from New York alone in the period has exceeded $50,000,000. Two-thirds of the gross income from the system has been clear gain. Such being the financial aspect of the situation, a succession of extensions and cheapenings of the service in the interest of the public is confidently looked for by the American public.

PEAT AS FUEL.

The value of peat as a fuel is not as yet recognized in Canada. Many experiments have been made with varying success. In some of these the turf is spread over fields and sun-dried; in others, the moisture is driven out by mechanical pressure. At Alfred, Ont., near Ottawa, the Dominion Government have conducted operations clearly demonstrating the possibility of turning Canadian peat into a form suitable for the market, at a rate of profit sufficient to place the business on a commercial basis. So far capital and enterprise have not followed up this pioneer work by establishing peat-making plants at the edge of the extensive bogs known to exist.

The demonstration plant operated by the Government at Alfred has a capacity of thirty tons of peat per day. The cost of production is $5.70 per ton, which it is claimed can be reduced, with the aid of mechanical excavators, to $5 or $5.50. At these figures the finished peat is cheaper than anthracite coal at $7 or $7.50 a ton. Peat fuel carries only from 8,000 to 10,000 heat units per pound, while anthracite coal carries 12,000 to 14,000; but in the peat there is a waste of only about 4 or 5 per cent, while in coal the waste runs as high as 16 to 26 per cent. There would seem to be no reason why peat should not be prepared for the market and used extensively so far as concerns the matter of economical production.

One great advantage of peat is its cleanliness. The bricquets can be handled as if they were so many blocks of wood. When burned, very little ash is left. In Europe the use of peat has long passed the experimental stage.

CEREAL GROWING IN ARGENTINA.

That the Argentine Republic has made marked progress in growing cereals during the present century is shown in an article on this subject contributed to the August number of United Empire by Mr. S. Hodder, who has been for many years resident in that country. The area devoted to the principal cereals has more than doubled in the last decade, and is three times as large as it was only fifteen years ago. In 1912 Argentina produced roundly 5,400,000 tons and exported 3,400,000 tons of wheat; 4,995,000 tons and exported 3,000,000 tons of maize or Indian corn; 1,130,000 tons and exported 1,000,00 tons of linseed and 1,682,00 tons of oats, of which 1,400,000 tons were exported. Notwithstanding the great expansion of cereal growing, Argentina still remains one of the chief sources of the world's supply of meat. Agriculture has, however, perceptibly cut into sheep farming, the number of sheep having dropped to 29,000,000 in 1910 as against 32,630,451 in 1900, a reduction from which no doubt British Australasia has profited.

Argentina does not seriously compete with Canada in wheat exports, at least so far as the British market is concerned. Argentina wheats are classed in the international market as intermediate in character between the soft white wheats of Australia and the Pacific coast and the hard red wheats of Canada and Russia. They are therefore preferred in the markets of southern Europe and France to North American wheats as the process of milling them and the flour yielded corresponds closely with native grown wheats with which the millers are familiar. The Argentine Government have, however, recognized the advisability of introducing new and superior varieties, and have established a number of experimental stations with that object. In the development of her agricultural resources Argentina is living up to her reputation as the most progressive of the South American states.

CURRENT COMMENT

Athletic Girl.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The girl who goes in for athletics is likely to have less time for what she deems the non-essentials of life than the girl who has no absorbing pursuit, and who is therefore more normally balanced, and takes a more conventional point of view. The athletic girl's manners may be different, but they are not necessarily worse, but all such remarks can apply to only a few in this class. As a matter of fact, the emphasis should not be placed upon the "athletic," but upon the "girl," and what applies to athletic girls as a whole will be found to apply to girls in the mass.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

(Hamilton Herald.)

The British police authorities were instructed not to interfere with Mrs. Pankhurst if she tried to leave her country for her country's good. Now the lady has slipped over to France, where, it is to be hoped, she will not return until the foolishness which she started has faded and is only an unpleasant memory.

Women as Jurors.

(Pittsburg Despatch.)

In Chicago they find women jurors are slow. It may be due to lack of practice or to feminine inclination for arguing, but the courts report that the verdicts are generally sensible. And that is a test that not all male juries have passed.

DIARY OF EVENTS

HISTORIC DAYS IN CANADA

SIR CHARLES ROSE.

Sir Charles Day Rose, who was internationally famous as a banker and sportsman, was born in Montreal sixty-six years ago today. His father, the Right Hon. Sir John Rose, of Montreal, was a partner of Levi P. Morton in the Anglo-American banking house of Morton, Rose & Company and his mother was a Vermont woman. He was a member of the Canadian militia and, as captain in the Montreal garrison artillery, was active in the quelling of the Fenian rebellion. Upon going to England he established his home at Hardwick House, Reading. He became a member of the Jockey Club in 1891, and at one time was the racing partner of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. He was a famous breeder and owner of race horses, and was also noted as a motorist, becoming president of the Royal Automobile Club. As a yachtsman he was the owner of several fine boats, including the Satanita, the Aurora and the Emerald. He once issued a challenge for the America's Cup, but withdrew it. After withdrawing from Morton, Rose & Company he continued his financial activities as a director of the London and Brazilian bank and the Indemnity Marine Insurance Company. He was created a baronet in 1909. At the time of his death last April he was president of the Royal Aero Club. He made his first flight in an aeroplane at Hendon in the afternoon, and succumbed to heart disease while on his way home in a motor car. During the last decade of his life he was a Liberal member of Parliament.

FIRST THINGS

FIRST PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL.

The first president of the United States of Brazil was Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca, who died twenty-one years ago today. During the empire he was a soldier, and took part in the war with Paraguay. Afterwards he was placed in charge of the powder magazines in Rio de Janeiro, and while there formed a military club, which was used to foment discord in the army and to spread republican doctrines, with which Fonseca had become imbued. He was so powerful that Emperor Dom Pedro XI. did not dare to openly accuse him of being a traitor, but instead he sent him to Matto-Grasso as governor. His removal from the capital did not deprive him of influence or stifle the growth of republicanism, and in 1889 the army turned against the Emperor and his expulsion and the proclamation of the republic followed. Fenseca was the popular hero of Brazil, and was made provisional president, serving in that capacity until he was regularly elected to the office. He proved to be a self-seeking and tyrranical ruler, and almost immediately dissolved Congress and proclaimed himself dictator. A revolt soon followed, and he was forced to resign, and was succeeded by Vice-President Piexoto.

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

SIR JOHN COCKBURN.

Sir John Alexander Cockburn, Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, former premier of South Australia, M. D., scientist, savant and statesman, authority on workmen's insurance, fire prevention, tuberculosis, manual training, economics, agriculture, horticulture, alcoholism and archaeology, Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George, and the staunch defender of international peace and woman's rights,—just to mention a few of his honors, offices, affiliations and opinions—was born sixty-three years ago today, and hasn't wasted a minute of the time.

Of all his accomplishments, Sir John says he is proudest of having taken an active part in framing the laws of the commonwealth of Australia, giving women the vote. The experiment, he asserts, has been a thorough success, and Australia is now one of the best governed and most prosperous countries on the map. "You can't buy a woman's vote with a glass of beer," said Sir John, hinting, perhaps, that certain members of some other sex might be so bribed.

Sir John recently visited America to work generally for Anglo-Saxon amity and friendship, in the capacity of chairman of the oversea committee for the Anglo-American exhibition, to be held in London next year to commemorate the centenary of peace between English-speaking nations.

THE PASSING DAY

THE CLAN OF WILSON.

Ever since the English, the Scotch and the Irish began the benevolent assimilation of the North American continent, the clan of Wilson has achieved fame in many lines of endeavor, within the United States and Canada. One of the American Wilsons of an early day who gained a world-wide reputation was Alexander Wilson, who died just a century ago today, August 23, 1813. Like so many of the Wilsons, he was a native of Scotland. He emigrated to America in 1794, when twenty-eight years of age, and worked for a time as a weaver, a peddler, and a rural schoolmaster. It was while employed in the latter capacity, near Philadelphia, that he became acquainted with Bartram, the naturalist, from whim he received much instruction. Always interested in birds, Wilson determined to become an ornithologist, and made many expeditions into the wilds to study his feathered friends. The result of these expeditions was his great work illustrating the birds of North America, of which seven large volumes had been published at the time of his death in Philadelphia. Although he died too early to reap the full reward of his labors, his name was and still is honored by ornithologists the world over.

Although Woodrow Wilson is the first of the clan to reach the Presidency, Henry Wilson was Vice-President of the United States from 1873 to 1875. He was born in 1812, of English descent, and his real name was Jeremiah J. Colbath, but at twenty-one he had his name legally changed to Henry Wilson, in honor of a foster parent. During the civil war he was chairman of the military committee of the United States Senate, to which he had been elected in 1855. He handled contracts out of which he might have acquired wealth, yet when he was elected Vice-President he had to borrow $100 to pay the expenses of his inauguration. He died in 1875, before the completion of his term, and left behind him a reputation for sterling honesty, but nothing else.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Solving the Problem.

The old lady from the country and her small son were driving to town when a huge motor car bore down upon them. The horse began to prance, whereupon the old lady jumped out, screaming at the top of her voice. The chauffeur stopped and offered to help. "That's all right," said the boy, composedly, "I can manage the horse. You just lead mother past."

Oil On Troubled Waters.

Lady—All your marine pictures represent the sea as calm. Why don't you paint a storm once in a while?

Artist—We painters in oil can't do that, madam. We may outline a storm on the canvas, but, you see, as soon as we begin to spread on the oil colors the waves subside and the sea becomes as calm as a duck pond.

Discussing the Tariff.

"Wasn't Jason the man who tried to land the Golden Fleece?" asked the youthful student.

"I shall not undertake to say," replied Senator Sorghum. "I positively refuse to discuss anything pertaining to the wool business outside of office hours."—Washington Star.

Diplomacy.

"Why won't you buy something at my table?" demanded the girl at the charity fair.

"Because I only buy from the homely girls," said the man. "They have a harder time making sales." The girl was not offended, and he worked this right down the line.

No Trouble About Sticking.

First Drummer—Confound it! Half the sales I make don't stick.

Second Drummer—Get into my line and you'll have no trouble. I sell mucilage.

BR—H—H!

"She turned on him with an icy stare."

"And what happened then?"

"His words froze on his lips."

The Extended Palm.

"Well, Uncle Si, now that you have returned from New York, what do you think of it?"

"Waal, I never see so many people try to shake hands with me—from waiters an' bell boys up."

Naturally.

A New York man named Onion has applied to the court for permission to change his name. Every time he thought of it it brought tears to his eyes.—Vancouver Province.

A Good Definition.

Tommy—What's a settlement worker, dad?"

Dad—"One who finds the silver lining to the other fellow's clouds."—Judge.

Too Costly.

"I absolutely don't know what to give my cook for a wedding present."

"Then simply give her money."

"Oh, no! It mustn't cost as much as that."—Ulk.

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