

# Washington Eager to Welcome Prime Minister at Conference.

## Mr. Meighen Regarded as Leader in Disarmament Proposals.

By Tom King.

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 22, 1921.—Although Premier Meighen has been scarcely a year in office, his personality has made a singular appeal to the people of the United States. Towards these many causes have contributed. In the first place his comparative youth appeals to a country where being young is no handicap in political life. Then again, his career closely parallels the typical career of a self-made American statesman. He was raised on a farm, worked his way through college, went West to grow up with the country, taught school while he was studying law, came back east as a member of Parliament for a western constituency and made his way by sheer ability to the Premiership. His thorough Canadianism and his fidelity to the national Policy is sympathetically appreciated.

### Meighen Gives Lead to Harding

Mr. Meighen has also made plain to the American people that the status of Canada has changed from that of a colony to that of a nation. We Canadians have a general idea that such a change occurred during the war and at the peace conference. That may be true but the fact is not generally appreciated in the United States. People here admired the valor of the Canadian soldiers and their devotion to the Mother Country. They scarcely noted or thought much about Canadian Delegates signing the Treaty of Versailles. They were inclined to think that their own President was completely under the influence of Premier Lloyd George and they probably took it for granted that the representatives of Canada at the peace conference agreed to anything proposed by the British Prime Minister. It was a speech delivered by Premier Meighen a few weeks ago at the Imperial Conference implemented by the action of President Harding in calling a conference of the Great Powers to discuss reduction of armaments and the problems of the Pacific that suddenly roused them to the fact that Canada, loyal as ever to the British Crown, was yet a self-governing nation with her own distinct views and policies on foreign as well as domestic affairs.

### Confidence in Canadian Premier

The majority of people here believe that sooner or later there will be a clash of arms between the United States and Japan. They are not courting war. They would like to avoid it, but they believe that sooner or later it is bound to come. They do not and never did seriously believe that in a war between the white and yellow race, Great Britain would take up arms against the United States. They believed that in spite of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance she would be able to maintain the same neutrality she maintained during the war between Russia and Japan. What they were concerned about was the position of Canada, contiguous as the Dominion is, to the United States and to the Pacific Ocean. Premier Meighen's recent declarations have reassured them on this point and no visitor to the coming conference at Washington—not even Lloyd George nor General Smuts—will attract more attention than the Prime Minister of Canada.

### U.S. Cordial to Canada

There is a cordial feeling here toward Canada, more cordial than is the feeling toward the Mother Country. Numberless citizens of the United States are of Canadian birth or descent and there is a constant stream of tourist travel from this country to Canada. Yet the tariff bill now going through Congress would seem to indicate anything but a neighborly disposition toward the Dominion. It is framed solely in the interests of the American producer and is bound to check the flow of imports into this country from Canada, already curtailed by the Emergency Tariff Bill.

### U.S. Enacts High Tariff Wall

The Tariff Bill, as reported by the Ways and Means Committee to the House of Representatives, left practically nothing on the free list which could be produced in the United States. The item of hides was an apparent exception but after the bill got out of committee, the House by a large majority, put a 15 per cent ad valorem duty on hides, and will place compensatory duties on leather and shoes. Cattle, wheat, oats, potatoes, eggs, butter and other dairy products, will have a high tariff wall to climb over if they are to get from Canada into the United States. On lumber, paper and other finished products, a supercharge is imposed unless Canada virtually abandons her regulations restricting the exportation of timber, pulpwood and other raw material. These provisions may not be dictated by any ill-will toward the Dominion,

but there is a determination of the Republican majority in Congress to protect the American producer all along the line, whether he be a farmer or a manufacturer.

### Free Trade Won't Pay Wages

The chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means and the administration leader in the House is Hon. Joseph W. Fordney of Michigan, principally known in Canada as the author of the Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill. Personally, he is one of the most popular men in the country. The Democrats do not agree with his policy, but they go out of their way to pay a tribute to his personality. He may not have all of his followers with him on every question—indeed some Republicans voted for free hides, including Miss Alice Robertson, the lady member from Oklahoma—but no one can doubt where Uncle Joseph stands. He is a protectionist with a capital P—three capital P's. He says the American producer is shut out of every market except his own and he should have that to himself. Free trade arguments he brushes aside with the remark that they "sound nice, but don't pay wages."

### Democrats Support Tariff

There are many low tariff men and even free traders among the Democrats but the Democratic Party after the last election looked pretty much like the Liberal Party in Canada after the election of 1917. Nor are they all agreed among themselves upon the tariff question. Their leader in the House, Mr. Garner of Texas, was one of the four southern Democrats who voted for the Emergency Tariff Bill, and only the other day he voted for a duty on hides. True, he announced that he would oppose compensatory duties on leather and leather products, but, in Mr. Fordney's opinion, they must follow as a matter of course the imposition of a tariff duty upon hides.

### Treatment of Returned Soldiers

The bonus or "gratuity", as we call it in Canada for the returned soldiers is a live question in American politics. President Harding the other day took the unusual step of visiting the Capitol and addressing the Senate in opposition to the bill. He took very much the same stand as Premier Meighen took in Canada a year ago, namely that while nothing was too good for the returned soldier the finances of the country would not permit the payment of the gratuity which, in the case of the American soldiers, would run up to about five billion dollars. The President, however, is quite favorable to a land settlement scheme and the administration has been studying with deep interest the soldiers' land settlement policy of Canada. I found several Senators and Representatives here who thought the returned men in Canada were all being settled in the far West and were astonished to learn that the provisions of the soldiers' land settlement law in Canada can be taken advantage of by returned men desiring to settle on small farms near large centers of population in Ontario and Quebec. Beyond all question, Canada has been far more liberal toward returned soldiers than the United States. Here the soldier, upon demobilization, received merely \$60.00—hardly enough to get him civilian clothes—instead of the six months' gratuity. Moreover, the flat sum of \$60.00 was paid to every man without regard to rank and without regard to whether he were married or single.

### U.S. Soldier's Bonus Bill

It was the fight over the soldiers' bonus bill, which was finally shelved for a year after the President's speech, which kept the Senate in session and prevented the members of that body from going almost in a body to Canada in support of the proposal to make the St. Lawrence River an ocean waterway and put Kingston, Toronto, Windsor, Port Arthur and Fort William, as well as Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago and Duluth on the seaboard. The majority in Congress are undoubtedly favorable to the scheme, though they may not appreciate the magnitude of the task to the extent we do in Canada where the problem has received longer study and more consideration.

### U.S. Interested in Premier Meighen

The United States newspapers, as a rule, do not carry much Canadian news, but they have generally been carrying the Canadian Press reports of the Imperial Conference, and thus have given their readers a pretty clear picture of Premier Meighen's course and career at the Imperial Conference. The result has been a good impression. People here who could scarcely recall the name of any public man in Canada ask with interest and curiosity about the new Prime Minister. They feel

that while Mr. Meighen will look out for the interests of his own country first, last and all the time, that he will not be swayed in his official conduct by any prejudice against the United States. Senators and Representatives from the Pacific Coast are especially pleased with the bold and yet diplomatic way in which he handled the Japanese situation. We have, of course, no Canadian Embassy here, but conversions do occur between Washington and Ottawa. Everyone here takes it for granted that President Harding followed the trail blazed by Premier Meighen when he invited the Great Powers to assemble in conference at Washington. Washington, by the way, is so overcrowded that it is fairly bursting out at the seams, and one wonders where all the visiting delegates to the Peace Conference, their staffs and secretaries will find accommodation. We may take it for granted, however, that a place will be found for the Premier of Canada. He will be one of the chief actors, if not the central figure, at the coming conference.

—TOM KING.

### Damning with Faint Praise

"Damn with faint praise, Assent with civil leer And, without sneering, Teach the rest to sneer."

about the Globe's attitude towards the Prime Minister.

Mr. Meighen, having won golden tributes from papers so widely separated in sympathies and outlook as the London Times and the Manchester Guardian, the Organ of the Adullamites is confronted with the mean and vexatious task of crying "Rotten Fish!" That the Prime Minister by his fearless honesty, modesty, firmness, loyalty and vision deeply impressed all classes in Great Britain is undeniable. He met every test as those who knew him felt sure he would. He not only evoked admiration by his unrivalled power of clear exposition, but won affection by the simplicity and charm of his personality. In a few short weeks he gained a reputation for statesmanship of the highest order, and this in a land where the standards are exacting and high—an unparalleled feat. All this is gall and bitterness to the organ which now can only claim to represent those embittered and die-hard Liberals who opposed conscription and who sustain their malevolence by feeding on the memories of the past. The splendid triumph of Canada's youngest Prime Minister on the old battle-ground of astute European diplomacy; his matchless oration in France; his wise, sane utterance before the Benchers; his noble and eloquent oration in the Guild Hall; his clear and inspiring address before Edinburgh University instead of evoking generous praise draw forth only cheap sneers of depreciation. In the consulship of Laurier the note was different. Then eulogy mounted to the skies. Then the phrase was "A great Imperial Statesman." Then the slightest whisper of the radiant "God" was megaphoned to the four winds. But now we are informed "The Prime Minister will be certain soon and will bring with him a back-sword of participation in the Imperial Conference which always ends in profuse compliments to all and sundry on the part of the British Press. Note the words "always ends." It was not this in the days of servile flattery. The sheer pity of it!

But this is not all, and certainly not the worst. The Imperial Conference itself is deprecated. There probably never was a more monstrous falsehood put in print than is contained in these words:—"The glory, however, is rather neutralized by the absolute indifference displayed at home as to what the Conference did or what any one said. With domestic problems pressing as they are for solution, the London deliberations and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance have attracted little attention. Surely smaller-mindedness and envy never went further than this attempt to belittle the sincere efforts of a statesman to bring about world-peace by casting aspersions upon a gathering which represented the very cream of the Empire's elite! No doubt it exactly represents the mind of the editor of the Globe who, we all know, is at present more concerned with wresting the control of Canada from the men who saved it and passing it over to a wild mob of "Come-Outers" headed by MacKenzie King than in combating the forces of disruption. But why does it not endorse King Lapointe, Crerar, Wood, Drury, J. J. Morrison and James Simpson editorially?

And why does it not come out boldly for unadulterated Free Trade? The Empire we may be sure will survive even the sneers of the Globe. It is firmly rooted in the heart of loyalty. Nearly seven hundred thousand of our citizens sprang to its defence and if need be, will spring again. It is Canada that stands in danger of annihilation. In this momentous crisis is the advocacy of courses that can only lead to political anarchy and financial bankruptcy for all classes including itself.

# THE GRIST MILL.

Broadly stated, the Agrarian viewpoint is that the Middle West shall dominate the East and that farming shall be the all paramount industry. On the other hand the Government believe it is our imperative duty to build up a self-contained and self-supporting nation, and that the best way to do so is to provide for the people the greatest possible amount of employment in all the various spheres of human activity.

If Canada were a purely pastoral country, as it would be under Free Trade, its consumers would be at the mercy of United States manufacturers who could supply them with any old goods at any old price—well knowing that these consumers could not help themselves.

The attitude of the Agrarian leaders is the personification of medieval Toryism. Willy-nilly and without the slightest regards for the interests of others, the farmer is to be boss, and to do the bossing to suit his own selfish interests.

Logically, why should there be only one-class party. Why not—

- a Retailer's Party,
  - a Wholesaler's Party,
  - a Lawyers' Party,
  - a Doctor's Party,
  - a Preacher's Party,
  - a Lumberman's Party,
  - a Miner's Party,
  - a Fisherman's Party,
  - a Newspaperman's Party,
  - a Civil Servants' Party,
  - a Banker's Party,
  - a Hotel Man's Party,
  - a Moter's Party,
  - an Old Maids' Party,
- The farmer evidently thinks he is the only apple on the tree.

As a matter of actual fact, the difference between the vast majority of Liberals and the supporters of the Government on the trade question is the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee—one would require to use a powerful microscope to find it.

# U. F. A. Leader Demands Absolute "Farmer-Control." Rank Sectionalism of North-West Group will alienate them from Eastern Provinces.

The Globe hypocritically professes to see a gleam of hope for the Anti-Conscriptionists Liberals in the returns from Alberta. The truth is that that election means the eclipse of Crerar (a camouflaged Liberal) and the sudden and spectacular rise of Wood, the Missourian. Here is a Province that has been overwhelmingly Liberal since its formation, rejecting its first love in terms so emphatic, as to leave not a ray of comfort. All is Stygian darkness. Crerar, like Drury, would "broaden out," but Wood, like Morrison, will have none of such perfidy. Wood is for complete farmer-control, and to hordes with all manufacturers. He has proved that among the agrarians of the North-West the detestable methods of American machine politics work to perfection. It is a new and sinister development and the antithesis of our immemorial British usages. Where it will end, who shall say? We have faith that in the end, the old, well-tried British theory of government will emerge triumphant; but, just at present, the sinister combination of the grain business with politics is triumphant. And the Globe speaks of these men—narrow, unpatriotic, selfish, reckless and ignorant of the simplest elements of fair play and true political economy—as Progressives, and goes so far as to gloat in anticipation over their possible union with the King-Lapointe combination in the next Parliament. What do the sound business men of the country think about it? It is about time they woke up to the menace.

The Globe forecasts that the straight Free-Trade farmers and the Liberals will have two-thirds of the next House. This can only mean that the North-West farmers and the Province of Quebec between them will completely dominate the situation. The North-West group (now that Crerar has been displaced by Wood) are for straight Free Trade; are indeed rabid on the subject and uncompromising. On the other hand, Quebec's very existence depends on her manufacturing—now more than ever seeing that, regrettably, her harvest this year is a bad failure. The only straight Free Trader from Quebec is MacMaster of Brome. Lapointe flirts with the idea for party reasons, but if he dared to advocate taking the duty off boots and shoes, etc.—on which the city of Quebec, and, indeed,

With the country's vital interests in serious jeopardy, with ruinous U.S. exchange against us, with high tariff walls erected against us, threatening the destruction of our trade with the United States, with our enormous debt and taxation and our awful railway deficits, it is the duty of all patriotic men and women to stand together and to crown upon selfish class movements—which lead nowhere and can only result in making our difficult situation very much worse.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have to pay \$1.14 in good Canadian money for every dollar's worth of goods we import from the United States, Dr. Michael Clark continues to tell us that we must import more and more goods and that only by doing so can we increase our exports. What rubbish! For heaven's sake, Doctor, be practical!

The good people of Canada are getting very tired of the preaching of the moth-eaten doctrines you imbibed in England, which are utterly inapplicable to Canadian conditions.

Once more we challenge the Hon. T. A. Crerar and the Hon. MacKenzie King to discuss the grave exchange problem on the platform.

Once more we ask them if they to dispute our statement that either of their policies were put in operation the effect would be to make the discount of our dollar still more. Conceivably, the purchasing power of our dollar in the United States might go as low as fifty cents.

Now, gentleness please don't run away from the argument.

The exchange problem is the biggest and it is the manifest duty of both of you to discuss it with the people, instead of talking about everything else under the sun.

Drury's enunciated doctrine that we need not worry ourselves about expenditures so long as revenues keep up, reminds us of the crazy financing of the Kings of France prior to the Revolution.

the whole province largely depend—he would be unceremoniously thrown out. Has the Globe thought of the deadlock which is bound to ensue? Is it sure that the present mis-representatives from Quebec will go back once the business interests and the people in that Province dependent upon them, clearly grasp the threat to their very means of existence? Is it not very likely, indeed, is it not inevitable that Quebec and Ontario will come together and stand together against all attempts to smash the tariff? Does the North-West understand Quebec or particularly love it? They are as wide apart as the poles. On the other hand, the interests of Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime Provinces (and British Columbia) are identical. When "the clash of mighty opposites" comes we venture to predict that the business men of Quebec will be heard from in no unmistakable terms. To talk of a union between Wood (the temporary dictator of North-West politics) and the Hon. L. A. Taschereau (the real teacher of Quebec) is grotesque. MacLachlan is a stout protectionist (as is Sir Lomer Gouin) and too ardent a lover of his noble Province to throw it to the dogs. He and Mr. Meighen, together with the big men from the Maritimes and British Columbia will easily find a working *vivendi*. Then we shall have a real natural party and for the first time in Canadian history. Naked selfish sectionalism in the long run the people of Canada will not stand, and it is sectionalism in its most repellant form that Wood, Crerar, Drury and the rest of them stand for. The shame and scandal of it!

But let the Globe rave on and extract what consolation it can from gorging forecasts. The people of Canada will understand that it has no real love for the Progressives and seeks to lure them only that it may betray them; that its contempt for MacKenzie King is unbounded; that the loyal Liberals loathe it for its betrayal of all that they hold sacred and dear, and that its principle object is to rehabilitate itself as an organ of leadership of any kind.

It is, indeed, in a sad state of political starvation if it can extract any nourishment from the Alberta bone. Let it suck!