

The Carleton Observer

VOL. XII, No. 57.

\$2.00 a year.

HARTLAND, N. B., JUNE 2, 1921.

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JOHN T. G. CARR

BUDGET SPEECH OF T. W. CALDWELL

The Following Delivered on May 16 Will
Interest Every Observer Reader

Thomas W. Caldwell (Victoria and Carleton, N. B.). Mr. Speaker, I have followed with a great deal of interest the different speeches that have been delivered during this debate. I must say, however, that I was rather disappointed in the speech the Prime Minister delivered on Friday last. I think the members of this House, and the people of the country, expected the Prime Minister to deal with the very serious problems that face the country today—the railway situation, the unemployment situation, and the other serious issues that confront the country. But what we were treated to on the part of the right hon. gentleman was one of the greatest exhibitions of rhetoric and abuse that this House ever witnessed. The Prime Minister accused our little group, in this part of the chamber, of not having their platform in Parliament. Mr. Speaker, it reminds me of a passage in a book that hon. gentlemen are more or less familiar with: Cast not your pearls before swine.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh. Mr. CALDWELL: We have moved this platform before a tribunal that is possibly less prejudiced than this House, a tribunal higher than Parliament itself—the electors of Canada. That platform has been endorsed in a large number of cases where it was tried out before the people on its merits, and if it is endorsed to as great an extent as the next general election as it has been in the recent by-elections we will have no cause to complain.

I think it was very small politics for the Prime Minister to try and make out that we were an "inner" to the Liberal party simply because we propose to vote for the amendment before the House, in view of the fact that we have perhaps supported the Government with our vote in the House nearly as often as we have opposed them. I think, Mr. Speaker, I cannot do better than quote what I said last year on the Budget because what I said at that time is quite applicable to our position today. Speaking on May 27, 1920, I expressed myself as follows:

"We do not propose to support either of the old parties in this House. When a question arises such as the present question before the House we intend to take a stand on it that will be in the best interests of Canada. We may err, but if we do we shall err in judgment, we shall not be whipped into line to support this party or that against our convictions, do not make any mistake about that. I think that we have proved our independence in this House during the present session. We have voted with the Government perhaps as often as against them. I am only sorry that we were not able to vote with them often, because if we had been able to vote with them it would have meant that they were bringing down good legislation, legislation for the good of Canada and which we would have been pleased to support."

I do not wish to take up a great deal of time in this debate, because the discussion has run at some length now, and after matters of this kind have been discussed for three or four days there is not very much new left to be said with respect to them. I do, however, wish to give a concrete example or two of how a protective tariff affects the business of the country, and how extravagant a method it is of collecting a revenue, and I wish to take in illustration some articles that I know something about—articles that are used in my own province very largely.

For one thing I wish to speak on the duty on fertilizers. At the present time, as you all know, there is a duty of 10 per cent. on mixed fertilizers, whilst chemicals, with the exception of acid phosphates, are admitted to the country free. I have here the imports of fertilizers for the last ten years, giving the amount imported that was dutiable and the amount that was free. Some of the recent speakers have referred to the Canadian tariff as inducing American manufacturers to locate in Canada. I want to show you why that is the case—because while they are able to import into Canada their raw materials free they are able to charge a duty on the manufactured article, collect it from the people of Canada and put it into their pockets instead of that duty going into the revenues of the country. For instance, in 1912 we imported \$413,338 worth of fertilizers that were dutiable, and on those imports collected \$41,333 in duty. That same year there was imported, duty free, fertilizer materials to the value of \$725,053.

Had these materials been dutiable the duty collected would have been \$72,505. But that went into the manufacturer's pocket, not into the revenue of the country. Therefore, for every dollar that we collect in duty that year the manufacturer put nearly two dollars in his pocket. I do not need to know the figures for each year separately. I wish to state, however, that in the ten years we collected in duty on fertilizers imported into Canada \$768,581.20, and we imported, duty free, fertilizer materials on which had there been duty the customs imposed would have amounted to \$1,766,154.90. It is just possible that some hon. member will say: Well, the fertilizer manufacturers do not take advantage of this. Very well, I want to disabuse the minds of hon. gentlemen in that

particular. I have here the price lists of a firm—an American firm by the way—who have a factory in Canada, a mixing plant. They import their chemicals free of duty and sell the finished product in Canada as well as in the United States. Living as I do only six miles from the American boundary I know whereof I speak in regard to this matter. I have here the lists of this company giving the prices at which they sell in the state of Maine and in the provinces of New Brunswick. Now, the fertilizers which they sell in Maine for \$68.50 they sold in New Brunswick this year for \$77.50, a difference of \$15 a ton. Yet the chemicals were brought from the same source and it was the same company doing business in both instances. Another fertilizer that they sold in Maine for \$7.75, they sold in New Brunswick for \$22.75. Another brand, of a higher grade, they sold in Maine for \$75.75 and in New Brunswick for \$90.75. Owing to this fact our farmers' organizations have taken to buying their own chemicals and imported them themselves. Accordingly this year we are able to lay down at the farmer's local railway station, chemicals such as used in the brand that our dealer charged \$77.50 for at \$48.15, a difference of \$29.35. The farmers, of course, have the remedy in their own hands, and I feel they are going to avail themselves of it—they will simply import their own chemicals and mix their own fertilizers.

I now wish, very briefly, to illustrate how a heavy duty affects our exports. I grow in New Brunswick large quantities of potatoes; that is the reason we use so much fertilizer. The latter part of this past season the prices have been very poor in New Brunswick, and we are not realizing a very good price for potatoes at the present time. However, I notice that the potatoes exported during the present year, that is up to the end of March last, have brought higher average price than those exported last year when the prices were quoted so high. The high price of last year caused different members to fine the accusation at the farmers that they were profiteers, that they were selling potatoes at \$12 a barrel. Potatoes did go to that price in April last year for the simple reason that there were no potatoes in New Brunswick. The potato crop in Canada and past season on the whole, sold at a higher price than the year before. Prices are very low at the present time, for the reason that there is an over-supply of potatoes and the demand is not equal to the supply. I have here figures of potatoes exported from Canada to the United States from 1912 to 1921. Of course, during the few war years prices and conditions were abnormal and therefore I shall take two years before the war and two years after and compare them. During the two years before the war there was a duty against our potatoes going to the United States which made the export business rather unprofitable for us. In 1912 we exported 27,222 bushels at a price of 70 cents a bushel; in 1913 153,557 bushels, at a price of 84 cents a bushel; in 1920—when there was no duty—5,480,764 bushels at a price of \$1.26 a bushel; and in 1921, 4,204,484 bushels at a price of \$1.33 a bushel. It will be seen that in 1920 we exported over 5,000,000 as compared with only 27,000 bushels in 1912.

When the Fordney Tariff Bill was proposed I took it upon myself to write to the Prime Minister to know if our Government could not take some steps to overcome the bill. Of course, I realized, as our Prime Minister informed me, that the United States Government have full authority to legislate for themselves, and would relate for themselves. At the same time in view of the fact that Canada has practically a monopoly of the pulpwood supply of North America, it seemed to me that our Government could very well have put it up to the United States Government that if they discriminated against our farm products it might be necessary for Canada to impose a heavy export duty on pulpwood. I think if this had been done the United States would have thought twice before passing an Act discriminating against our farm products. I do not know whether such representations were made or not by our Government to the Government of the United States, but at any rate this country had no intimation of any such action having been taken.

In view of the fact that the Young Emergency Tariff measure will affect the potato growers of Eastern Canada very severely, I should like to urge upon the Government the necessity for providing facilities at the port of St. John for the shipping of potatoes during the winter season. If we are practically shut out of the United States, Cuba is our next best market. During the past winter season I received several communications from potato shippers in New Brunswick urging me to see if the Government would provide some means for shipping potatoes through the port of St. John during the winter season. I believe it would not be a costly matter—merely the erection of a coast-guard warehouse. These shippers advised me that during last winter they were compelled to ship via Boston, which meant, according to the ruling of the Railway Commission, that they had to pay freight in American funds from the shipping point in Canada to Boston, and from Boston to Cuba. Had they

POTATO SITUATION FULLY DISCUSSED

H. M. Hatfield Says That Immense Quantities Still in Storage or Being Dumped

H. M. Hatfield, of the firm of Hatfield & Co., Ltd., Hartland, N. B., was in the city last night and discussed the potato situation in the northern part of the province at some length with a representative of The Standard. He stated that immense quantities of potatoes were still in the cellars of the growers and some had been dumped. Those farmers living near shipping points were hauling their surplus stock to starch factories at the magnificent price of fifteen cents a barrel, where the best stock is being made into potato flour.

A shipment of 10,000 bags of potatoes will leave this port on Monday next by the steamship "Dover." Another shipment will leave here on the fifth of June. This consignment is slightly smaller than the one leaving next week and will be the last shipment to be made this season on account of the stock having deteriorated since the warm weather set in.

Mr. Hatfield stated that the farmers in the northern section of the province or those who depend largely on the growing of potatoes are dumping the results of a great expenditure yet are again plunging heavily with a very poor prospect of having a good market next year on account of Virginian potatoes being shipped into the country as early as the middle of April.

The demand for the new stock at any price prevents the further sale of the old and consequently there is no hope for a late market. To make matters worse the middle and western provinces stock up with the American potatoes and prevent our having a brisk fall market. So general is this that in Montreal after the first of June the produce dealers there refuse to handle our stock, the whole potato business in that city being done by the fruit men who will not look at anything but new stock and it comes from the States. The same is true of Toronto.

In justice to those interested, Mr. Hatfield suggests, that now that the American market is threatened to be closed to our produce, retaliation should take the form of a duty on potatoes coming into this country and in that way at least we could save our own market for ourselves. With that purpose in view the firm has lately wired the Hon. Mr. Wigmore placing the case before him and asking that he make a full inquiry into the matter and if possible a sufficiently high tariff on American potatoes to warrant their non-interference with our own in the Canadian markets.

Fully forty per cent. of last year's crop is still on the hands of the growers and is consequently a total loss. Mr. Hatfield attributes this unfortunate circumstance in a large measure to the high freight rates at present prevailing in this country and in the United States. To prevent the loss would be too late to prevent the loss that the farmers of this province have already sustained, but it may remove some of the uneasiness now existing over the disposal of that of next year.—St. John Standard.

EDITOR WRITES HOME FROM WEST

Dear Folks: Your editor started away on Tuesday for a trip to Vancouver, covering a period of three weeks. The first lap of the journey made us to night at Toronto and all is well. A fellow passenger, Woodstock to Montreal was Hon. P. B. Carvell, while Mordam to Toronto we were in the pleasant company of A. A. Gundry, the well known St. John jeweller, one time of Hartland. Having just arrived here we have not had time to look up any of the joy riders who tomorrow by the courtesy of the C. N. R. and C. P. R. start on the long trip by easy stages to Vancouver and Victoria. A train of ten Pullman cars stands ready for use. The office is left in charge of Miss MacMullin, business and editorial editor, and Stanley Tompkins as mechanical foreman and superintendent of job and advertising copy. We expect these young people to acquit themselves creditably, and we ask the co-operation of all friends in getting items of news each day.

THE EDITOR

BAIRDVILLE CLEANINGS

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Grant and daughter, Shirley, spent Sunday at Mrs. Charles Baird's.

Mrs. Rastina Porter is visiting her sister, Mrs. Davenport of Kilmuir.

Riley Lamoreau spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. James Lamoreau.

Mrs. Martha Kipparick & son Reuben and Miss Emma Goding and John Baird spent Sunday with Mrs. Charles Baird.

Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell spent the week-end with Mrs. James Howlette.

Miss Katherine Emery spent the week-end with Mrs. Frank Baird.

SCHOOL MEETING

Don't forget the Special School Meeting in Town Hall on June 7 at 8 p.m. Business as follows:

1. New schedule of teachers salaries.

2. Shall the school be regraded and a new department permanently maintained.

3. The taking over of the school by the town.

4. Buying a new lot and building a new school house.

All suggestions are earnestly requested to be present, or do not let a slip when you get your next school tax bill.

J. STERLING KING, Sec.

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