

## ADEQUATE TARIFF PROTECTION A Necessity for Canadian Labor

Evidence of the fact that the Conservative Party of Toronto appreciates the seriousness of the situation into which Canada has been plunged by the attitude of the King Government toward the tariff and the sales tax, was adequately furnished at the King Edward Hotel, when the Liberal-Conservative Business Men's Club gathered to listen to appeals of Senator Robertson for relief from the mismanagement of the Federal Administration. For the ball-room was filled to capacity, and a large number of the members of the Ladies' Conservative Association turned out to back up the men in their attempt to bring to the attention of the public the state of affairs brought about by the King Government. The two big points at issue, which were tending towards the overthrow of industry, and which were, accordingly, driving Canadians to the United States at the rate of thousands a year, were, the speaker pointed out, the tariff and the sales tax. Both of these obstacles could be overcome, as the Senator declared that Canada should increase its population by 5,000,000 during the next fifteen years but population could not be increased unless conditions were so changed that there was employment for all who were willing to work. The way to bring about that employment was the reduction of the sales tax and the raising of the tariff wall.

**Must Forget Politics**  
"Complaining of existing conditions without suggesting a remedy is time wasted," the Senator remarked. So, for Canada's sake, let every citizen who believes in adequate tariff protection, whether he or she be Liberal or Conservative, support it and work for it. Let all those who, from conviction, believe in tariff reduction or extinction get together and stand and work and vote for what they believe in. Let us have an ending of political dishonesty and deception. My own personal view on this all-important subject, which means national prosperity or poverty, according to the way it is decided, is that, first, the general intermediate and preferential tariff rates should be arbitrarily increased by at least ten per cent. This amount will, in very many instances not offset the handicap of debased currency and other recent occurrences which have disturbed the pre-war international balance between countries, to say nothing of tariff increases of recent date against us by so many other nations. There should then be attached to the Department of Finance, probably three men, expert in their knowledge of tariff, trade and labor conditions in and out of Canada, whose business it would be to investigate the needs of any industry or any consumer's complaints as to the tariff, hear all parties concerned, and make their recommendations to the minister, who, while responsible, cannot possibly give such matters personal attention.

**Lower the Sales Tax.**  
The existing sales tax, now bearing so heavily on the common people, should be reduced to two-and-a-half per cent. The recent treaty with France, by which Canada loses annually \$800,000, according to the Finance Minister's own estimate, should be denounced and ended. There is no justice in reducing duties on silks, velvets, lace and wines to the extent of \$800,000, and making up the loss by increasing the sales tax on everything the Canadian workman must buy for himself and family. In face of the present Prime Minister's pledge to reduce the cost of living, this act is a crime against our people. The revival of confidence, of trade and of industry, consequent upon the adoption of these tariff reforms, would, in my opinion, quickly stop unemployment and business failures, reduce immigration, and stimulate emigration. Great Britain has a surplus population of over 10,000,000. She has about five million people who are either without employment or dependent upon those who are without work. Hundreds of thousands of these loyal British subjects should be given opportunity to work, if Canada will adhere to its national policy of 1878 and strengthen it to meet present-day requirements.

**Not for Revenue.**  
The customs tariff serves two specific purposes, namely it protects home industries and the workmen employed therein, and affords a substantial part of a country's revenue. Great Britain, frequently but erroneously referred to as a free trade country with a population of forty-seven million people, maintains a substantial tariff chiefly for revenue purposes. For the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 the customs per capita average was \$13.87, or six hundred and fifty-five millions of dollars gross revenue collected from this source. Ninety-four per cent of this revenue came from duties imposed on cocoa, chocolate coffee, chicory, curants, and other dried fruits—rum, brandy and other spirits, sugar, glucose, tea, tobacco, and wine. On sugar, tea and tobacco alone, articles used by the masses of the people Great Britain collected in 1921 through customs duties, the sum of one hundred and nineteen thousand four hundred pounds. None of these three articles is largely produced in Great Britain, which clearly indicates that in this case, the purpose of the tariff is revenue rather than protection.

There are one million three hundred thousand unemployed workmen in Britain today, with probably three million dependents relying a substantial revenue tariff upon the necessities of life consumed by all; and without protection against foreign competition in the goods they produce at home. In other words, Britain under present world conditions and in the face of increased tariffs against her in scores of other countries, is not able any longer meet world competition at home and face the problem of protecting her home markets. Here we have the effect upon the working people, where protection of home industry is lacking.

**Contrast in U.S.**  
In the U. S., the other nation with which we are wont to make comparisons, we find a very different situation. There, with a population of one hundred and five million, seven hundred thousand, the average customs collections for the same period, namely 1920, 1921, and 1922, was \$2.85 per person, or less than

one quarter of that imposed upon the British people, and still the United States is regarded by us as a high tariff country. There they protect the home industry and tax lightly, if at all, that which they do not produce.  
Analysing these facts one must reach the conclusion that the United States tariff policy is one for protection rather than revenue. Its operation has resulted in that great country supplying its own requirements in most part, thereby stimulating its industries and employment. Undoubtedly, the recent and present industrial, commercial and construction activity in that country, which has drawn so heavily upon our labor supply in Canada, is primarily due to the recent tariff revision made effective there.

The industrial worker is not exposed to the keen competition of the manufactured products of those countries in which there exists a far lower wage scale, and poor living standards. Here we have a concrete example of a high tariff country actually collecting from its people one-fifth of the amount per capita that 'free trade' Britain collects from her citizens. Here we find a nation that has increased its population by one hundred million people in two hundred years, has colonized a large empire, and made of it the richest country in the world, just across the street from our front door.

**Cost of Living Lower**  
The cost of living in the United States today is lower than in Canada, employment plentiful, and wages good, thereby maintaining a high standard of living and purchasing power. More than a hundred thousand Canadians a year are being welcomed there. The lesson which I draw from the foregoing facts is that a tariff for revenue only, as we have read so much of in Canada, may be a distinct detriment to a country, while a tariff framed to protect industries and those engaged therein, may be a blessing, and not a burden.

**Situation in Canada.**  
In Canada, the question of taxation and immigration are intimately related to tariff policy. Tariff controversy was the fundamental cause of the recent rise of the Progressive political party in Canada.  
The speaker said the defeat of the Liberal Government in 1911 on the reciprocity issue merits mention, in that it revealed a popular expression of public opinion, indicating that the Canadian people believed in our national policy of 1878, as respects tariff.

Following the election of 1911, the New Government pursued an aggressive immigration policy, maintained the tariff, and made no reciprocal agreement with the United States. During 1912 there came into Canada over hundred thousand immigrants from countries of the world. All found a place. There was no unemployment, apart from that arising out of seasonal occupations. During 1913, similar conditions prevailed, and then came the war.

With it, the problems confronting Government quickly changed. New and unprecedented responsibilities presented themselves month after month during the next seven years, only two incidents of importance affecting the tariff occurred during that period. The agreement, when a union was formed in 1917, primarily for war purposes, that tariff matters would not be permitted to become controversial while the war continued, and the imposition of a 7 1/2 per cent, additional tariff duty for revenue purposes. An increase in tariff for protective purposes was at that time unimportant, as all industries were busy and all workmen were employed.

During this period a third political party arose, whose professed purpose was an all around reduction in tariff duties and the gradual but complete elimination of tariff as between Canada and other parts of the Empire.

**Failed in Pledges.**  
In 1919 the Liberal party held a convention and revamped its political platform, pledging itself to a substantial tariff reduction, which it has failed to fulfil since coming into office, but not into power, in 1921.

In 1920 the Government of that time, made up as it was of adherents to both old political parties, deemed itself under obligation to restore old tariff levels, the war being over and reconstruction well on its way. In the light of events which followed, namely world wide deflation in business, coupled with tariff increases in almost every country (if not every one that participated in the war, I am convinced that the tariff level should be raised generally, the tariff tax reduced to the original level, and totally abolished as quickly as possible.

In 1921 another general election occurred, resulting in the formation of a new Government, with only a minority of the popular vote and dependent upon the support of the third party, who were and are pledged to tariff abolition. Thus a Government, pledged to tariff reduction, kept in office by a party pledged to tariff destruction, has failed, as was inevitable, to increase and maintain in force an adequate protection for Canadian industry.

To ease its conscience, and for revenue purposes, it has in a few instances reduced the tariff by 2 1/2 per cent., and in its place thereof has added a 6 per cent. sales tax on most commodities, manufactured or imported, thus substantially increasing the cost of living to Canadian workmen, while opening the door to the goods of foreign countries made by cheap labor.

**Textiles Hard Hit**  
Our textile industry, normally employing 70,000 hands, is languishing, being unable to meet competition of importers on goods which are the product of cheaper labor in countries having depreciated or debased currency values, which in many instances more than offset the whole tariff duty imposed. In some instances indeed, the advantage gained from these sources by the foreign manufacturers is more than double the import duty.



HON. GIDEON ROBERTSON  
Former Minister of Labor  
Who delivered a stirring and impressive address before the Toronto Conservative Association on the Tariff Question

### Garbage Men Ask Agreement From London Council

LONDON, ONT.—After a lapse of more than two years the members of the city garbage men's union have presented a request for official recognition from the city council.

City authorities acknowledged that the formal demand from the union has been received and will be submitted in due course to the members of the board of works and then to the city council for final disposition.

This is said to be the first move of its kind since 1921, and the city officials explain that the council did not enter into any agreement with the men as now appears to be requested.

"This is practically what it amounts to," one of the officials in touch with the situation explains. "The men, in their request for a formal agreement, ask for certain things, and they define the working hours, etc.

"But as we see it, they are getting now practically what they ask others than a formal agreement with the city for the current year. In other words they want an iron-clad assurance that their present working conditions, etc., will not be altered materially during the year."

During 1922 the garbage men were among the outside civic employees who were hit by the 10 per cent salary reduction instituted by ex-Mayor Cameron Wilson and his associates. The reduced wage was effective throughout the term until restored just as the council of that day went out of office.

"In 1923 Canada imported over a million yards more woolen cloth than in 1922, while our mills at home are closed or running on short time, some of them three days a week. The workmen employed therein are struggling to exist on a half-time wage; the mills stand idle, while the foreign manufacturers and the foreign workmen work and profit to supply our idle workmen's needs, while our taxation grows and our national debt increases alarmingly.

"How is the Canadian workman going to long continue to either work short time or be unemployed altogether and meet, from his decreased or depleted earnings, the new burdens of taxation now added? How is Canadian industry to survive and furnish employment if the protection necessary to enable them to compete with the foreign manufacturer is not afforded?

"Why have nearly 200,000 Canadians immigrated to the United States during last year? The correct answer is the tariff and immigration policies of that great nation, plus lack of ability or inclination, or both, on the part of Canada's Government, to boldly do the obviously right thing.

"Why where there 24,900 less workmen in Canada's various industries on December 1st, last, than were in service on November 1st, a decline of a thousand men for every working day in the month?

"Why are so many business concerns, large and small failing every week?  
"It is, in large part, because a helpless, inefficient Government, is hampered by its own unwise pledge and tied to and driven by the destructive Progressive party policy on which party the Government is dependent for existence."

### POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

Industrial conditions in Canada have brought into prominence our economic policy and the effect and necessity of a protective tariff, stable and adequate, to conserve and encourage our industrial development, which now leads agriculture in industry in its relation to employment makes the question of its stability, prosperity and progress of first importance to labor. Without certain and continuous employment at a fair wage labor suffers privation and deprivation, and labor's dependents are debarrd from opportunity and comfort. To labor industrial prosperity is of equal, if not greater, importance than it is to capital, in that capital can be transferred to other fields of investment, while industrial workers must suffer or expatriate themselves and families from their native land, family and social ties, and with inevitable dispersion of savings and loss in home investments.

During the past two years, labor organizations from their knowledge of the migration of artisans from Canada to the United States, must realize that to remain Canadian our artisans must have a continuous and remunerative wage. There is no doubt of the migration, and that could arise only unemployment at home, for men do not desert their native land, when they are prosperous and contented. To labor then the question of Canadian industry is of first importance. A few classes of industry have been taken to illustrate what this class of employment means to Canada and Canadian labor. The figures quoted are of three years ago, and are the latest available, but the statistics for 1923 will show a vast change, in reduction of plants, employees, and wages. In 1920 these were the conditions in five classes of industry:

- Knitted goods, 127 plants, 11,465 employees, \$8,584,798.00 wages.
- Woolen textiles, 130 plants, 6,627 employees, \$5,929,281.00 wages.
- Cotton textiles, 36 plants, 58,828 employees, \$12,142,394.00 wages.
- Boots and shoes, 177 plants, 13,489 employees, \$12,075,028.00 wages.
- Agricultural implements, 99 plants, 12,838 employees, \$16,941,987.00 wages.

While statistics are not available for comparison with the position of these industries now, yet there is a certain and melancholy knowledge of conditions in the communities served by the various plants engaged in the enumerated industries. It is quite evident from these conditions that there has been a startling decrease in number of plants, number of employees, and the annual wage. In the textile trade one has only to visit the various communities established by this industry to see the loss

to Canada in population, production and wealth. In Valleyfield and Quebec City the cotton workers are walking the streets or migrating to the New England States, leaving their native land to manufacture goods for Canadian consumption. In every Ontario town where woolen and knitted goods are the chief product, there is a steady flow of native-born and Canadian trained artisans to the United States. Go into Brantford and other towns dependent on the agricultural implement business, and there will be ample evidence that tariff instability and tariff reduction are driving the best of our artisans across the International Border. It is the same in the boot and shoe industry. Visit Quebec City and see during the period of navigation thousands of European-made shoes being unloaded at the docks, while the Quebec shoe workers are living on half-time work, or have gone to Lynn, Boston and Springfield, where an adequate tariff conserves the American market for American artisans.

There can be no doubt that the major reason for industrial conditions, resulting in depression, unemployment and migration, is our tariff policy with its instability and continuous lessening of the protection afforded industry. Two years ago owing to the announced policy of tariff revision downward by the new government industry became alarmed and in that alarm there came a lack of stability and progress. This alarm was speedily justified, not by drastic cuts in production, but by reductions that small as they might be, threw the Canadian manufacturer in a desperate fight with cheap productions of Europe for the Canadian home market. In that fight the Canadian manufacturer has been a loser, and Canadian labor and industry has suffered. In agricultural implements the tariff had been reduced several times, but the final reduction has almost killed this industry. In the textile and shoe industries the last increase in the British Preference has brought a flood of British and European goods into this market, that has spelled ruin to our own plants. Great Britain is now exporting more tweeds to Canada with a population of 8,500,000 than to the United States with a population of imports of British shoes, woollens, and cottons have been such as to close Canadian mills in these industries. We are exporting artisans and importing goods.

Canadian industry cannot exist without protection.

Canada is the only country in the world that has not increased the protection to its industries since the armistice. Formerly Canada sought protection chiefly against the highly specialized industries of the United States with a monopoly of the tremendous home market. What is even more dangerous to Canada now is the products of Europe on the cost basis of a debased currency. Since the war there has therefore been double necessity for protection in Canada, and instead of an increase there has been a decrease in the protection afforded. Canada is faced with industrial stagnation and the depletion of her artisan population. This country cannot offer its markets to the world for practically nothing and pay high duties to enter other markets, and survive industrially. We are training artisans for the United States, and purchasing foreign goods, in many instances made by Canadian artisans expatriated by a weak and vacillating fiscal policy.

### Under Labor

It is the view of many that the constitutional parties prefer to see Labor assume control in Great Britain at the present time, when the government will be at best more or less of an experiment. Possibly both Liberals and Conservatives believe that men of cabinet calibre are lacking in the Labor ranks, and that by giving the parliamentarians of the newer party enough rope

they will force them to hang themselves. That may easily turn out to be a mistaken view of the abilities of labor leaders and the temper of the country. By allowing Labor to govern with the tentative support of the Liberals, the older parties are avoiding the necessity of a coalition. The man of the hour in British affairs, possibly in world affairs, is Ramsay MacDonald. On his shoulders rests the task of establishing a government sufficiently strong to compel respect in the countries of Continental Europe, where it is all-important that British prestige must not be allowed to wane. There is a general support of MacDonald's pronouncement of a moderate policy in his recent speech at Albert Hall. If he is able to control the more radical element in his party, particularly from the Scottish industrial centres, and to carry out the policy which he has outlined, the life of his government may be successful. MacDonald has announced that Labor will adopt a line on which it will be possible for Liberalism to support by confining its efforts to reforms and the establishment of peace in Europe. It will work to this end with Asquith and Lloyd George in England, and with Brian Herriot, Painleve and Loucheur in France. It will strive to make peace with Russia and restore Germany to the comity of nations. Mr. MacDonald recently said that in the accomplishment of these aims the League of Nations would be used without reserve as the main instrument for securing international justice. In this he will be standing by doctrines which the British electors expressed approval, while avoiding those things for which Labor is working, but in regard to which it is a minority party. The opinion is held in well-informed quarters that the rank and file of both the Liberal and Labor parties are not very widely separated in many of their fundamental aims and ideals and that they will easily find a common basis on which to work. At any rate Mr. MacDonald's announcement insures that Great Britain will have a stable government during the next few months, and that the Labor leaders will be given a chance to demonstrate their ability in administrative capacities. This week is expected to bring the parliamentary vote which will call Labor to control in national affairs.

**On Factory Conditions**  
TORONTO.—Charge made through the press I. Lindenberg (secretary of the Toronto Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, that deplorable conditions prevail in some garment shops, as far as working hours and sanitary conditions are concerned, have aroused the attention of Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, minister of labor, and health. Dr. Godfrey has requested a report from the factory inspector branch of his department as to the actual conditions.

### Bookbinders Meet

HAMILTON.—At the meeting of the local Bookbinders union Joseph McKimmie, Buffalo, organizer of the international Bookbinders' union, was present and addressed the members. He gave some very helpful remarks and stated that this organization was showing wonderful revival in the way of new members.

The Hamilton local is in a splendid condition and its finances are better now than at any time since the strike of 1921. Many new members are joining the union here.