

The Tariff is Class Legislation

It is Morally and Economically a Mean, Bad, Fiscal Policy

By FREDERIC KIRKHAM

EDITOR'S NOTE:—We asked our readers to discuss the protective tariff and suggest a remedy. A rainy day has given Mr. Kirkham the opportunity, and he has dealt with the subject in a courageous manner. We recommend his article to all our readers, not necessarily that they will agree with all the sentiments expressed, but because it is a splendid opening attack upon the citadel of special privilege. We hope some of our readers will find a rainy day and devote it to an article on the tariff for us.

You ask the farmers to discuss the tariff and to send along our letters because the tariff is a matter of more importance to the farmers than to any other class of people in this country. That is true, sir. Yet in 1904 Mr. Clifford Sifton said: "The tariff is no longer an issue." What Mr. Sifton should have said—to be accurate—the tariff is no longer an issue betwixt the Liberal and Conservative parties, as they are both sold out to the protected interests and are pledged to uphold the tariff and its subsidiary affiliations.

The tariff is class legislation. It is therefore up to the farmers to recognize this glaring and hideous fact. So the sooner the members of the Grain Growers' Association individually recognize the political monster that is enslaving and plundering the producing classes the sooner honest government will become possible, and the plundering incubus be set aside and made to get off the producers' backs. First, because the tariff is no longer an issue between the two political parties; second, because the tariff is a matter of more importance to us farmers than to any other class of Canadians, are two of the chief out of many great reasons why we farmers who are forced by the unholy class tariff to carry the incubus of the manufacturers who by the privilege of the tariff are enabled to extort exorbitant tribute.

At our recent Prince Albert convention President Drury, of the Dominion Grange, reminded us that we are exploited far more by the tariff than even the elevator interests, and the convention agreed well with his statement. Now, our editor of THE GUIDE asks us how we think the tariff should be regulated and the best plan to follow to secure results, etc., etc.

Protection which was fancifully dubbed National Policy was adopted by the Conservative party as their fiscal policy on two main arguments. First, as a temporary measure, said Sir John A. Macdonald, say for ten or fifteen years so as thereby to protect the infant manufacturing industries of Canada. Secondly, that the enactment of a protectionist tariff was absolutely necessary, said Sir Charles Tupper, so that the United States could be compelled to renew the treaty of reciprocity which had been of such great advantage to Canada.

Now, every patriot can bear with a tariff for the legitimate object of legitimate revenue. But the unfairness, the gross injustice not only to our class but to all classes of the toiling community to be taxed as we are, where from four to six dollars goes into the private pockets—by deliberate political legislation of the two old parties—for every dollar that goes into the public treasury, and has done for over thirty years, just to enrich wealthy and powerful corporations is a very improper kind of government.

Surely the time is now here for some other kind of fiscal policy. Are Canada's manufacturing industries still infants? Are we still going to be persuaded by such sentiments as Mr. Langley has in your issue of April 6th when he calls loudly for more sacrifices from us for another long period of retaliation against the United States? He altogether ignores the fact that if the retaliation is our principle that other nations can also play the same game, and, we being a young and weaker nation are bound to get the shorter end of the foolish policy, as against that commercial giant.

In 1896 the elections were fought on the distinct issue between Free Trade and Protection and the so-called National Policy was properly defeated. But, alas! Sir Wilfrid's government has betrayed its pledges to a free trade policy, and has taxed for revenue purposes more than double per capita; and his government's legislation has not been on behalf of the toilers as promised, but entirely in the interest of the combinations, trusts, mergers, speculators, grafters and the politicians.

Practically he has, with the assistance of Mr. Borden, destroyed all competition, less the British preference, which virtually applies only to woollen goods.

The manufacturers now have the entire market of Canada with this one exception corralled. The retailers are at their mercy both as to price and quality. There is no need for manufacturers to put forth any effort to turn out excellence of their articles. When we give them the control of the market we give them the incentive and power to manufacture the ———— so that the retail stores are stocked with; also the flimsy implements, vehicles and machinery, and the repairs on them are at fabulous prices. This is how the protective tariff works out. It has made us for over thirty years perform the uneconomical policy of letting a mere handful of manufacturers (who were wealthy before), fatten themselves into millionaires out of the farmers' resources and toil.

The protected interests have had their innings; it is high time this high protection should be abolished, and this tariff privilege give way to equal rights. If our manufacturers cannot exist without high protection and bounties, wnan them, and let them live or die on their merits. We have helped them long enough; they

grows and all subsidiary interests of protection have bought up the two political parties and supplies both of them with campaign funds, which they have levied out of the workers' resources. The parties are bought with the people's own money, stolen by the tariff, and the rakes-offs of private franchises and charters.

All the cities of Canada possess many Liberals and Conservatives who are sick of Canada's political bureaucracy; they have had enough of such ruling chiefs as Laurier and Borden. They are tired. "Oh! so tired," of mere factionists and opportunists.

With your permission I may say more another day when it rains—as it does just now.

Saltcoats, Sask., April 14, 1910.

IN ACCORD

"If, by the improvement of marketing conditions, the farmer can add \$100 to his cash income, surely he will be working to the prosperity of every interest in his community. Every other interest should assist him in every way."

This is from THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE and sounds like good logic. And we believe it is. We know we are expressing the views of the people of Killarney when we say they are entirely in sympathy with the above sentiment.—Killarney Guide.

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"Character is a bundle of habits. Habits originate in the mind and are registered on the body."—Geo. D. Tripp.

What Co-operation Has Done For Agricultural Denmark

Written special'y for The Guide by ALPHONSE DESJARDINS, Ex-M.P.

Denmark is a small, one could truly say, a very small country of northern Europe. Its size is hardly equal to two of our western constituencies, comprising a superficial area of 9,746,000 acres. Its population is about that of Ontario, or a little less now, being 2,580,903 inhabitants, of which three-fourths are farmers. And yet, small as it is, Denmark can boast today of an international trade worth three hundred million dollars. In 1905 its exports were as follows:

Horses, 29,421 head.
Cattle, 123,696 head.
Butter, 138,800,000 pounds
Meat, 221,000,000 pounds.

But what is perhaps more striking than

among them, and after an extensive trip to England, began to preach the innumerable advantages of such associations. But instead of taking up, as England did almost exclusively, the distributive or store feature of co-operation, the system was applied to agriculture. It was the farmers who did co-operate for the betterment of their industry and they soon realized how beneficial the regime was. No wonder then that today Denmark is almost covered by a network of co-operative societies of every imaginable kind, numbering more than 2,700. The Danes have succeeded in securing the best markets of the world for their products and to obtain the highest prices therein. They have also



A Western Farmer taking his Family on a Picnic. Nice, isn't it?

are not babies any longer that they should cry out for pap. It is their turn to become men; to stand on their own feet. I will go further, it is time for them to turn in and help the toilers to lay by a little store of their own.

To answer your request "What is the best plan to follow to secure results?": The privilege of the tariff was the gift of parliament, and, therefore, it can only be abrogated by a paramount revolt in parliament. Such a party can only be got by a determinate revolt of the farmers, assisted by honest Liberals and Conservatives all over Canada. The revolt must take the form of a new party with new leaders. The first steps towards this is to organize a league, to educate all classes of toilers in their true political duties; get the people interested in their duties to Canada; get them to see the evils of the protective tariff; show them how the manufacturers, trusts and mer-

anything else, is its export of eggs, the average having reached the enormous figure of one Million eggs per day.

Now, one would very pertinently ask how is it that such a small country, having but very ordinary soil, could have ever reached such a high degree of agricultural prosperity, being able to not only feed its own people, but export as well such a large amount of produce of various kinds. The answer is, and it is almost the only one, if due regard is taken of the educative influence of this form of association, Co-operation. All those who do visit Denmark and inquire, easily come to this conclusion.

The Danes are an intelligent, energetic and progressive people. Forty or more years ago, they were poor, almost helpless, being ruined by a terrible war with Prussia, who had taken the two finest provinces of the kingdom as the price of its victory. Happily an apostle of co-operation arose

shown what they could do in other ways, by breaking the combines and trusts that tried to exploit them. It can truly be said that Denmark gives the best object lesson possible on co-operative lines, and its worthy example deserves to be studied and closely followed, as far as at least as circumstances and conditions permit to do so.

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ORGANIZATION AND PROTECTION.

Co-operation is the slogan of the 20th century among all progressive wide-awake people. It is the era of trusts and combines. To such an extent has organization been carried that the people must organize to protect their interests for the individual no longer stands any show as against the combine. The time has arrived when to combat the trust successfully it is necessary to form a colossal trust of the people, by the people and for the people.—High River Times.