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## T. W. CALDWELL ON THE BUDGET

(Continued from page 2)

many bushels of wheat it cost him to buy a box of apples, and I shall give a like illustration with regard to potatoes and fertiliser. At the present time—and this was given in sworn evidence before the Freight Rates Committee the other day by Mr. Porter, who, by the way, is one of the largest potato exporters we have in eastern Canada, as well as one of the most reliable men—the farmers are getting for potatoes less than 50 per cent of the cost of production. For the last two months or the last month and a half, and that is the time when a great many potatoes are sold in our section of the country, our farmers have been getting, not 50 per cent, but only 25 per cent of the cost of production. In New Brunswick last year it cost $2 a barrel to grow potatoes. What price are we getting at the present time? Only 50 cents for a barrel of 165 lbs., and it cost us $2 a barrel to raise these potatoes. That is the sworn evidence of Mr. Porter before the Railway Committee. Since the last January our potatoes have not been above 80 cents a barrel, and most of our crop has been marketed since then. At the rate we are getting for our potatoes today it will take 135 barrels of potatoes to pay for one ton of fertilizer, for the price the mixers are asking is $67.50. The average yield of potatoes is 80 barrels to the acre, so you will realise what a position the farmer is in who has to buy fertiliser, and the necessity for granting him some relief, especially as that could be done without any material loss in revenue for in the last six years we have only collected about half a million dollars in duty on fertiliser. Yet this item is not mentioned at all in the present budget; no relief is granted. I am convinced that it was an oversight on the part of the Minister of Finance, and I earnestly hope—I was going to say, I firmly believe, but I am not so ready to believe as I was two years ago that legislation needed will be passed—but I sincerely hope that relief will be granted on this very necessary article to our farmers before the budget resolutions are approved.

I said I was going to make some constructive suggestions, because I do not think that a speech which is entirely destitute of constructive criticism is any help either to the House or to the country. However, before I come to that, I had better deal a little more fully with the decrease in the customs duty on farm machines. I am not feeling quite so blue over the fact that there have not been more reductions made in the customs duty on farm implements as I am at the increase in the sales tax. I do not think the decrease in the duty on farm implements has been at all sufficient, but the shuffle that was made in that matter was made in the right direction, while the move in the sales tax is absolutely in the wrong direction—that is my belief. However, I think after listening to the speech of the Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) this afternoon, and the statement made by the Finance Minister two days ago I have not quite as much hope as I had at the beginning of the session that the Liberal party ever meant to put the tariff planks in their platform into execution; and in that regard I just want to quote a statement made by the Minister of Finance two days ago in reply to the leader of the Opposition. He said:

"I have never voted for the tariff items of the Liberal platform, and never concealed the fact that I did not approve of the platform in that respect."

I think, Mr. Speaker, possibly it is becoming increasingly clear to the members of this House just where the pressure is coming from that is preventing the Liberal party from putting their platform, or moving in the direction to put their platform, into active legislation. I want to say further, Mr. Speaker, that I am not criticising the Government in any particular because they have not put into effect at once their platform in regard to the duty on farm machinery. I do not think any sane man in this country would advocate taking the duty off any one article all at once, especially when it is as high as it is on some articles of farm machinery, but I think a substantial step should be taken in that direction and not a shuffle. I also think the manufacturers should be warned that the Government did mean to implement their platform by legislation if they continued in power, and for them to put their houses in order and get ready for that eventuality which should come by stages so that they will be able to accommodate themselves to the situation.

I want to say right here, Mr. Speaker, that I decline the fact that different speakers in this House have attempted to attribute the statement to us that we desire free trade right away, that we want to wipe out the tariff over night, and that we want to get rid of the manufacturers of Canada. That is an absolute free trader in any group in this House. But we of the Progressives want fewer trade, and we want reductions off duty on the tools of production and the necessaries of life. The reason why I am not so concerned about the duty on farm implements as I am about the increase in the sales tax is, that the reduction in the duty on farm implements would possibly only affect 50 per cent of the people of Canada, whereas that increase in the sales tax affect 100 per cent of our people. And no party in this House, or in this country should take a selfish, or a narrow view even, of the tariff. We must have a tariff for the whole of Canada; we must be willing to give and take; but I do not consider the Government have even taken one short step towards putting their platform into effect. I sincerely hope, therefore, that the statement the Finance Minister is going to make later in regard to the budget, according to the announcement of the Prime Minister this afternoon, will carry out some of the changes to which I have alluded.

I said that I wanted to make some constructive suggestions. Now, I have made a suggestion on more than one occasion in this House that an export duty should be put on pulp wood and on round logs going out of Canada, and I will tell you why. I see the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) shaking his head.

Mr. McMaster: A duty is just as unsound one way as the other.

Mr. Caldwell: We all agree that manufacturers are necessary in any country in order to build the nation up. All we ask is that the manufacturers get off our backs and stand on his own feet. However, I want to make a suggestion to the Government in the matter of establishing factories in this country, and I do not need to go outside of Canada to demonstrate the truth of what I am saying as to the advisability of offering some inducements to manufacture pulp wood and paper products. I want to show why I am advocating an export duty on pulp wood. I hold in my hand a copy of a prospectus issued by the Oxford Paper Company of Rumford Falls, Me. They are getting out this prospectus in order to sell $300,000 worth of stock to develop a water power and an electric plant at Rumford Falls, and I want to show you what they are presenting as their assets, the justification they are giving to induce the people to put money into their enterprise in order to develop that industry in the United States. They say in this prospectus:

"The Company's available supply of pulp-wood is ample. It holds under lease from the Crown the right to cut and remove pulp-wood and all forest growth from a tract of about 1,000 square miles (approximately 650,000 acres) in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. This lease runs for a long terms of years in 20 year renewable periods, the last maturity June 19, 1938, at an annual rental of $6,000. This rental is a fixed sum regardless of the amount of wood cut from these lands. The holdings are virgin forests and contain, according to conservative estimates by experts, at least 6,000,000 cords of high grade pulp-wood, sufficient to supply Oxford Paper Co. for more than 100 years at its present rate of consumption of spruce and fir.

"In addition, the company owns the right for 12 years to cut spruce and fir from a tract of 50,000 acres in Canada, near the city of Quebec, and also has the right to cut spruce and fir from 125,000 acres additional Crown lands in Canada.

"The company has a further large available supply of spruce and fir pulp through its one-half ownership of Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd. which owns, in New Brunswick a pulp mill and owns or controls about 350,000 acres of land containing about 1,000,000 cords of spruce and fir timber.

"Besides spruce and fir the company uses a large amount of poplar wood, which it is able to buy at reasonable prices in Maine, New Hampshire and New Brunswick. As poplar growth is very rapid a sufficient supply of this wood will, it is believed, always be available."

Mr. McMaster: May I interject a question here? Would the hon. member consider it wise to have an export duty on potatoes in order that a man who was running a mill in which potato flour was manufactured might get the potatoes and make them up into flour?

Mr. Caldwell: We have no such mills. I will qualify that by saying that we did have one during the war. During the war there was a demand for this product but not at a price that would enable the factory to use table potatoes. So they took the culls, the small potatoes that were not saleable, and they made them into potato flour and sold it at a price that would pay for the manufacture. However, even at that time of high prices the demand for potato flour would not warrant the use of table potatoes for the purpose; consequently, since the war, that factory has closed down. Even at fifty cents a barrel a profitable industry cannot be carried on to-day by taking table potatoes, converting them into potato flour, and selling the product at the price they could get.

I have here another clipping which states a certain firm in the United States is buying tracts of land such as the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Company own, and by the way it is expected that the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Company's mills will close down in New Brunswick in the very near future, and that the pulp wood cut on these lands will be shipped to the American mills. This will also result in the closing down of the mills in Nova Scotia because they can import these raw materials into the United States free of duty, while there is at the present time a bill before the United States Senate to impose an import duty on manufactured pulp and paper and this will be the means of helping to build up the industry in the country to the south instead of our own.

I want to say further, and I know the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) will agree with me in this. Some people have attributed the prosperity of the province of Quebec to the fact that the sale of liquor is permitted there. I do not agree with that statement. I think it is more attributed to the fact that Quebec has encouraged the manufacture of pulp wood and paper in that province. I think I am well within the mark, Mr. Speaker, when I say that the province of Quebec to-day manufactures 70 per cent of all the chemical pulp and paper that is manufactured in the Dominion. I think that is correct, but I am speaking from memory, and, of course, subject to correction. Due to that fact Quebec has become prosperous; because possibly there is no industry in Canada so profitable, or has been in the last ten years, than the manufacture of raw pulp into paper.

I want to give more reasons why this should be done, not as an act of retaliation against the United States, but as an act of commonsense for Canada. Today we have a pest called the spruce bud moth, which is killing the forests of Canada quite rapidly—and I am glad to say I believe it is diminishing very much;—due to the fact that United States corporations are allowed to come in and buy large tracts of land. They are not interested in the conservation of our forests, nor in the condition of the country after the forests are cut, as our own citizens are. They are simply stripping the forests of Canada, and reaping the benefit in their manufactures in the United States. The different provinces of Canada a few years ago pretended to take some action in this matter. However, they have not jurisdiction in international trade, but have jurisdiction over their own Crown lands in the eastern provinces, where these forests are located. They passed an act containing a provision such as this:

"That no pulpwood cut on Crown lands shall be exported from Canada."

Mr. Archambault: What is the difference to the consumer between an import duty and an export duty? Is it not a fact that duties are paid on the principle of protection?

Mr. Caldwell: I am glad the hon. member asks the question. An import duty is paid by the party in this country who consumes the article imported. The same applies to an export duty. It applies to the people who consume that product in the United States. The citizens of the United States will pay the export duty. I observe that the hon. member from Brome (Mr. McMaster) shakes his head.

Mr. McMaster: Is my hon. friend not aware that one of the almost inevitable results of the export duty is to decrease the price which the manufacturer will pay to the producer of the raw material, the market of the producer of the raw material being decreased by the fact that he cannot really export what he has to sell.

Mr. Caldwell: I am glad the hon.

(Continued on page 9)


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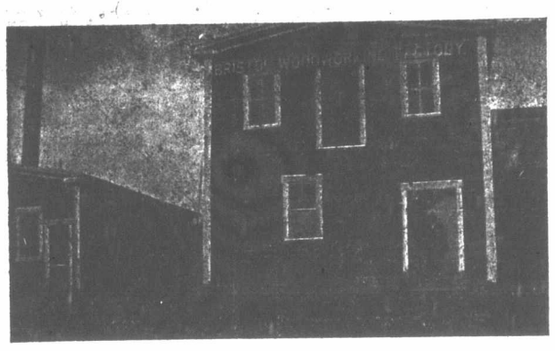

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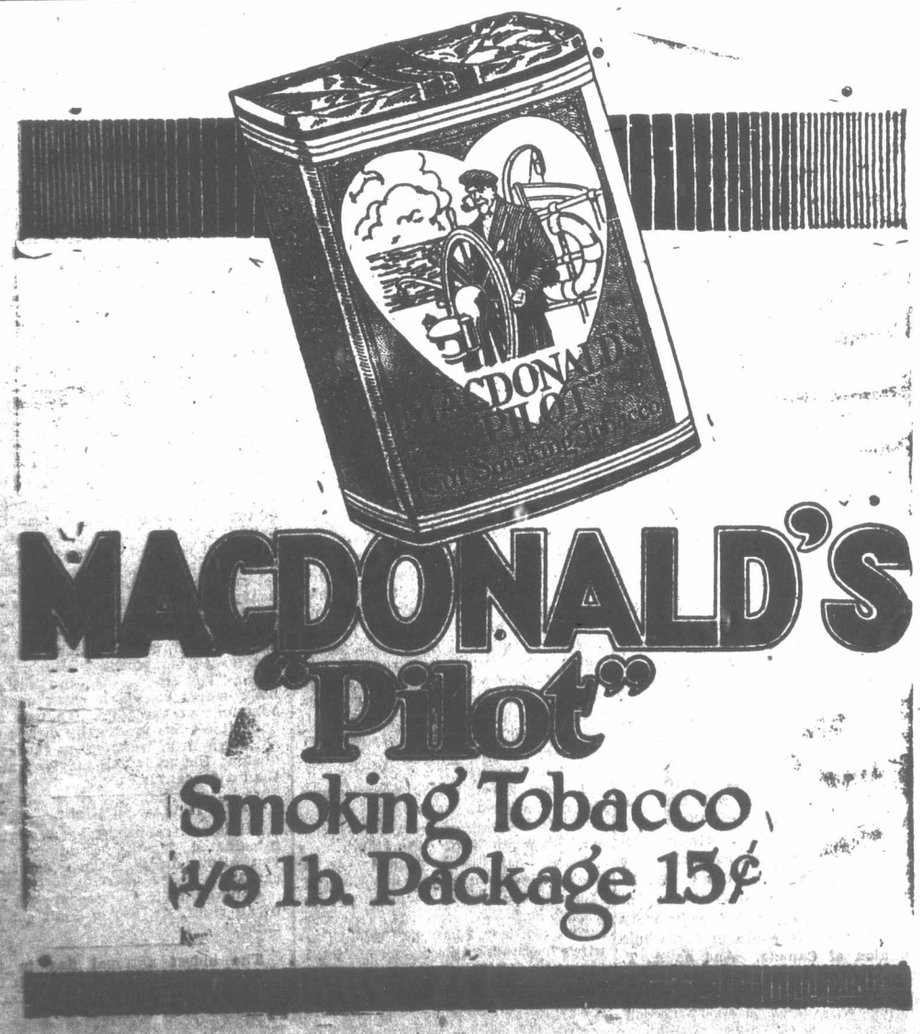




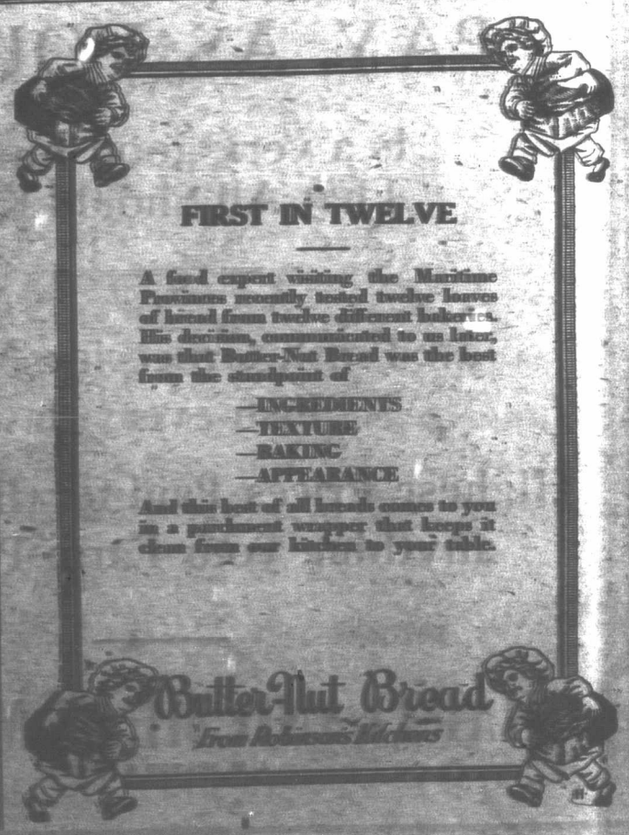




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