

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1919.

THE TARIFF.

It may be inferred from the speeches of the leaders of the United Farmers in the West that the tariff question is to be made a real live political issue. Mr. Crerar, who is looked upon as the logical leader of a National Farmers' Party, is a strong advocate of tariff reduction, and Mr. Drury, who has been called to form a government in Ontario, is a radical Liberal who has described himself as a crank on the question of free trade. The tariff plank adopted by the leaders of the Farmers as the main features of a national platform are practically the same as the tariff plank adopted by the Liberals at their Ottawa Convention—a fact which deserves more than passing attention. It indicates that the leaders of the Farmers have no faith in the Liberal party, or its intention to give effect to its tariff programme. And the fact that most of the Farmers' leaders have been Liberals of radical propensities leads to an additional significance to this assumption that the Liberals are not to be trusted to carry out their convention promises.

Unfortunately, for the time being, representatives of the western grain growers appear to be the dominant factor in the Farmers' political movement. The grain growers of the west have decided the tariff policy of the Farmers' party. Possibly they have given expression to the opinion prevailing in the farming communities of the east; but if so, their warrant is not obvious. True, at a meeting of Farmers and Dairywomen at Fredericton early this spring, called for non-political purposes, a resolution favoring reciprocity was put through apparently unanimously—at any rate without discussion. The farmers may be so united on a tariff policy that discussion among themselves may appear superfluous, but once they enter the field of politics they are under obligations to reveal to the public the reasons for the faith that is in them. Acceptance of the western grain growers' views on the tariff may or may not be in the best interests of the eastern farmers; acceptance without discussion is not in the interests of democracy. A division between the east and the west on the tariff question is already threatened; and if this division is to be further complicated by a class movement accepting its inspiration wholly from the western grain growers, the effect upon the national interests may be of a very serious character.

Whatever may be the value of western leadership, full and frank discussion of the tariff policy which they are asked to support is a duty the farmers owe to themselves as well as to the country. Out of the war has emerged a world in which most of the nations are strongly inclined to high protection. France is frankly a protectionist; its tariff on many lines is prohibitive. Great Britain leans strongly to protection; its Government still reserves the right to place by order-in-council embargoes on the importation of various commodities. Germany is likely to abandon her policy of high protection in so far as she is able to control her fiscal policies. In Australia, we are told by the American Consul at Sydney, there is a formidable movement to promote a substantial increase of the tariff and make Australia more of a manufacturing country. In South Africa General Smuts is asking his party to commit itself to a strong fiscal policy designed to encourage a development of manufacturing industries. In Mexico the tariff has just been revised upwards, the duties on many lines being increased 25 per cent. In India there is even a movement to impose a duty on the export of certain raw materials, the object being to encourage the development of local manufacturing industries.

The United States may be expected to show some interest in free trade, though even there Congress is considering putting a heavy duty on duties to encourage the home manufacturers. Owing to high protection American industries have reached a high stage of development, and as a result of the stimulus of the war the United States has now a big surplus for export. Her industries do not have to bear a burden of debt such as the war has placed upon other nations, and they have little need to fear foreign competition in the home market. In the circumstances there does not appear to be any good reason why the farmers of Canada generally should accept unreservedly the policy of throwing open the Canadian market to the American surplus, which some grain growers in the west, thinking only of selling certain grades of wheat to the United States millers, appear to have committed them to. The consequences of such a policy may be very serious, and the whole question should be considered carefully in all its bearings. It is reported from Ottawa that the Government will shortly appoint a commission of Ministers to investigate the tariff, and that is a reasonable proposal, for an investigation at the present time

would doubtless serve a useful purpose. It would probably be a good thing if the Government followed the advice of the Manufacturers' Association at their meeting this summer and appointed a Tariff Board, with farmers' representatives on it, to make a scientific study of the Canadian Customs tariff and the tariffs of other countries with whose products Canadian producers are forced to compete, familiarize itself with costs of production at home and abroad, investigate the nature and probable national effect of all requests for tariff changes, and endeavor to frame a tariff that will serve the best interests of Canada, and thus assure the harmonious all-round development of the country.

MR. DRURY'S CABINET.

That the composition of Mr. Drury's Government is the best possible in the circumstances and shows that the farmers have a proper appreciation of the responsibilities of power seems to be the general view of the Ontario press. Mr. Drury and his colleagues will evidently be given a fair chance to prove their capacity to carry on the affairs of the Province. The new Premier is reported as saying that five or six members of the old cabinet, presumably farmers, have assured him of steady support, while a number of others have promised that their opposition will not be of a captious nature. If he can command the support of the farmers elected on the old parties' tickets he will have a fair working majority.

Mr. Drury has gone outside the coalition for an Attorney-General, W. E. Ramsey, of Toronto, who has been prominently identified with moral reform movements. He was a Liberal, but helped to drive the Ross Government out of office and supported Whitney till 1914. In the recent election he supported the Hearst Government, which makes his selection rather interesting. All the other members of the Cabinet are attached to the Farmers' or the Labor party. The representatives of Labor are Walter Holo, M. P., a broom-maker by trade, and editor of the Hamilton Labor News; and H. Mills, the new Minister of Mines, who is now a locomotive engineer, but was formerly a miner. Of the Farmers' representatives in the Cabinet, three are described as former Liberals and three as former Conservatives, the political affiliations of the remainder apparently having been not very strong either way.

EUROPEAN WAGES.

Despite the general increase in wages in Europe, payment to industrial workers is still much below the standards on this continent and the hours of work are considerably longer. The United States Trade Commissioner at Brussels, Belgium, has sent to the Department of Commerce at Washington a report on wages and hours of work containing details which make comparison very easy. The Commissioner says that he was regarded as representative of general wage conditions in Belgium. It shows blacksmiths, machinists, etc., employed by the community in reconstruction work, receiving from 19 to 24 cents per hour for an eight-hour day, while mechanics employed in textile factories are paid from 13 to 22 cents per hour. Chief machinists get \$12.50, expert machinists \$11.77 and assistant machinists \$11.19 per week of 54 hours. Skilled workmen in the rubber factories are paid 24 cents per hour, and laborers 19 cents per hour for a 52-hour week. The 54-hour week is fairly general in the textile industries. In the linen industries children are receiving seven cents per hour, while the scale for apprentices in cotton spinning ranges from 23 to 28 cents per hour. In the clothing industries garment workers receive 19 cents per hour with a nine-hour day. Carpenters are paid 23 cents per hour for a 54-hour week, while masons and plasterers receive 17 and 18 cents per hour, supplemented by a bonus of four cents per hour on account of the high cost of living. Painters get 16 to 17 cents per hour, plus a four-cent bonus.

THE VANISHING ARMY.

Answering criticisms as to why the demobilization of the army had not proceeded more rapidly, Lloyd George the other day revealed an interesting bit of history. The Premier declared that by Germany no one—not even the German Government—knew whether or not Germany would sign, and in that uncertain situation the Peace Conference had asked Marshal Poch if the force at his command was large enough for a march on Berlin. The Allied Commander was only able to give this assurance because there were three or four British divisions in reserve which the British Government offered to place under his orders if needed.

In spite of this difficulty the Premier was able to give figures regarding demobilization, indicating a remarkable accomplishment, especially

in view of the wide distribution of the British forces. At the date of the Armistice, he said, the total strength of the Army, Navy and Air Force was 4,400,000. Next month it will be 720,000, and at the end of March, 1920, it will be down to 500,000. The Navy is practically on a pre-war footing now; and by the end of the fiscal year its establishment will be less than pre-war strength. As regards the Army, the Premier said that the War Office had planned on still having 300,000 men under arms by the end of March, 1920; but as a result of the demand for economy it was now intended to reduce the army to 300,000 men by that date. Some of the critics who were loudly demanding army retrenchment are now condemning the Government because it has not seen fit to continue policing the troubled portions of the Turkish Empire.

THE VICTORY LOAN.

In the Victory Loan campaign New Brunswick and St. John have again made a proud showing. Both went over the top with a vengeance; it is estimated that the contribution of the Province will be \$15,300,000 against an objective of \$20,000,000, while St. John's share will be \$5,500,000 against an objective of \$4,000,000. Albert County led the campaign, and captured the German flag gun. Practically all the towns and counties went well over their objective.

The result of the last four days of the canvass must have been a gratifying surprise to all engaged in the campaign, for the Provincial Committee were rather afraid the Province would not live up to its reputation. The great success which attended the first effort shows that the people of New Brunswick can always be depended on to respond in a generous manner to any appeal to their patriotism. The liberal over-subscription shows, too, that the people of this Province are enjoying a good deal of prosperity; it is rather astonishing where all the money comes from, considering the many appeals that have been made to the people in the recent past.

The Provincial Committee and all the local committees deserve the highest praise for the success of the loan. The various features of the campaign were conducted with great energy, and were highly creditable to those responsible for them. According to estimates made last evening, the total subscriptions for all Canada will be over \$600,000,000, a sum which will put the Government on easy street, and enable it to discharge all the nation's obligations to its soldiers, and put its financial house in order. Canada's final war effort was in keeping with all her previous efforts.

WHAT THEY SAY

The Goops.
 (Chicago Tribune.)
 There are the Capitalist Groups and the Labor Groups. The rest of us are the Goops.

Bargains Should Be Kept.
 (Columbia Record.)
 Labor wouldn't find it so hard to make bargains if it didn't find it so easy to break them.

A Timely Hint.
 (Shoe and Leather Reporter.)
 The old postulate "trade follows the flag" must now be changed to "trade follows the loan."

The New Game.
 (Edmonton Journal.)
 According to the Grain Growers' Guide, one of the leading supporters of the Grain Growers' candidate, who won Monday, exclaimed at a meeting in the course of the campaign: "Boys, I'm going to have to sell my farm. It's interfering with my politics." Of the rest with which the farmers are taking up the political game there could be no doubt.

Our Example.
 (Quebec Telegraph.)
 And must be governed as Canada. And he must bear the same relation to the Empire that Canada does. It is to be hoped that the British Government will fully recognize this.

What It Looks Like.
 (Toronto Globe.)
 The latest proposal for a settlement of the Irish question, namely, two separate Parliaments, looks like encouraging rather than subduing strife.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE ABSENT.
 (W. A. in London Daily News.)
 The banners wave in the sunshine,
 Or drop in the still, soft air;
 Down vistas of roses and laurels
 The conqueror legions fare;
 And the heavens re-echo the shout-
 ing,
 The hymns, and the trumpet's blast.
 And the eyes of a thousand thou-
 sands
 Are bent on the stately show,
 And the hearts of a world enfranchised
 At its messages throb and glow—
 But what of the eyes that see not,
 And the hearts that may never know?

The eyes that in battle brightened,
 The hearts that no fear could quell;
 The spirits that snatched our tri-
 umph
 From the rocking jaws of hell;
 The lads with all life before them,
 That put it behind them—and fell!
 Do they sleep beneath the soil they
 rescued
 In Flanders and Picardy,
 By Jordan or old Euphrates.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

We was eating supper last night, being chicken crockets and things, nothing wonderful, and I started to take some butter for my bread and ma said, Benny I want you to go easier on the butter from now on, do you know how much butter costs a pound?
 No mam, I said.
 Well I do, and it's something frightful, so please put it on as if you were trying to spread the bread, not hide it, sed ma.
 Yes mam, I sed.
 And I took a little piece on my plate instead of a big piece as usual, and I spread it so delicate you could see the bread rite throo it, saying to ma, Look ma, how's this?
 Very nice, very nice indeed, sed ma.
 Well can I have another slice of bread and butter after I eat this one? I sed.
 Sertainly you can, dont be silly, all I want you to do is spread the butter thin, sed ma.
 Well can I have 3 pieces? I sed.
 You can have as many as you wish, you can have 4 or 5 if you can eat that many, sed ma.
 Well then, I sed, wat if I just take one instead of 5, and spread all the butter on the one, and save the other 4 pieces, look at all the bread id be saving for you, I sed.
 Such a boy, all rite, spread it on so thick you cant lift it if you want to sed ma.
 Which I only spread it on about as thick as usual, being about a quarter of a inch at the most.

Or deep in the sunless sea?
 Or... here in the glow, do they see
 And know,
 Better, perchance, than we?

A BIT OF FUN

Out of Her Line.
 Chump—That—aw—pretty little sculpin.
 "I—am—name as you wish, you can have 4 or 5 if you can eat that many, sed ma."
 "The new cook is coming tomorrow and I have nothing decent to receive her in."
 Janus in Trouble.
 Lakeland Star—Toot, a double-faced gentleman's gold watch, with black velvet bow tie.

Punishment.
 "Are the Germans to have no punishment?"
 "Their situation is what I should call punishment," replied Miss Cayenne. "They are obliged to live all their lives under some kind of a German Government."—Washington Star.

Chicken-Feed.
 Mrs. Witherby—Have you any change? I'm going down town to buy some groceries.
 Witherby—Here are some \$100 bills. They are all the small change I happen to have.

Calling It Square.
 She—Truly, am I the first girl you ever kissed?
 He—You are, darling, and it makes me happy to hear you say I am the first man that ever kissed you.
 She—If I am the first, how does it happen you do it so expertly?
 He—And if I am the first, how do you know whether I do it expertly or not?

Why They Were Scared.
 A boy's composition—"Tobacco was invented by Walter Raleigh, and when the people first saw him smoking they thought it was a steam boat or locomotive and as they had never heard of those things they were greatly frightened."

Sacrificing a Tip.
 "I am in a great hurry," said the bald-headed man who climbed into the barber's chair. "Can you cut my hair if I leave my collar on?"
 "Sure," replied the barber as he glanced at the tiny dome, "even if you leave your hat on as they had never heard of those things they were greatly frightened."

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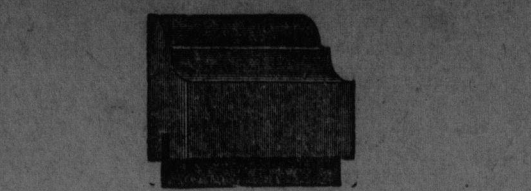
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POLICE COURT CASES SATURDAY

Petty Larceny Cases Heard
 Report Against the Jam
 Pender Co. Preferred
 Factory Inspector Was S
 ted.

Two petty larceny cases were fore the police court Saturday. J. Dickson was charged with stealing stick of timber, valued at \$252, from the yards of George McKean & Co. pany, and William Pyne was charged with stealing two pairs of gloves valued at \$3.60 from the store Morris Lambert, Main street. Both men pleaded guilty and were manded.

Two drunks were given the usual penalty.

Contrary to the usual custom, Saturday afternoon session of the court was held when the case against the James Pender Co. was up for second hearing. It was shown that this factory has two engines in its building and one engine in another but only one engineer to look after the plant. The defendants agreed to get another engineer and with the consent of John Kenney, provincial factory inspector, the matter was held over for a week.

WEAR A GARLAND INSTEAD OF SASH

The very latest girdles for Paris evening frocks are made of fruit and flowers. Cheruit has put a belt of red cherries and green leaves on a frock of black net. Linvin introduces a belt of purple grapes on a dance frock of orchid colored tulle. A white lace evening gown has a sash made of silver leaves and grapes, a garland trailing down one side of the skirt and looping up the lace drapery.

From A Child Was Constipated

According to the best medical authorities, fully three-fourths of the people of the civilized world suffer in some form from costiveness or irregular action of the bowels. There is no doubt that many distressing diseases are caused by constipation. It gives rise to sick and bilious headaches, jaundice, heartburn, floating specks before the eyes, catarrh of the stomach, biliousness and the painful, troublesome piles. Therefore, it is of supreme importance to health that the bowels be kept regular. Simple food, fruit, etc., should be used, and rich food and stimulants of all kinds avoided. This, with the use of Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills to regulate and establish healthy action of the bowels cannot fail to give permanent relief in the most obstinate cases.

Mrs. Letitia Waiman, Orillia, Ont., writes:—"From a child I was always very badly constipated, and I can well remember when quite young, my mother giving me such a dose nearly every morning, and I got to dread it. After taking Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills for a while I am not troubled with constipation any more."

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