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tics. The question is local, and cannot be raised to the dignity of an international issue. Canada has passed a long way beyond the stage where it can be shaken to its centre by a duty on oysters and the ingredients of beer.

* * *

EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE ON CANADA AND WASHINGTON.

(Toronto News.)

FOR years we have been told that free trade was making progress in the United States. It was represented that the American farmer was rising against the "robbery of protection." It was said that the forces favourable to reciprocity with Canada were becoming influential in Congress. The Republican party, under the leadership of Mr. Taft, declared for a revision of the tariff downward. But the result of all this preaching, prayer and prophecy is that, after months of investigation and deliberation, the American tariff is to retain its prohibitory features so far as Canada is concerned, and all its rigid protectionism in so far as it affects other countries.

There is no movement amongst American farmers for lower duties. There is no demand from American labour for reduction of imposts. There is no disposition to deal favourably with Great Britain in return for the Mother Country's free admission of American products. The truth is the United States, like Germany, makes the tariff an instrument of national expansion and national strength, and treats all outside nations as aliens and strangers. This would not be so if the Mother Country were armed with power to penalise American goods in British markets, and the action of Washington ought to strengthen materially the movement for imperial preferences, and lead us in Canada so to reform the Canadian tariff as to meet the action of Washington, and so to readjust our whole scale of duties as to give still more favourable treatment to British manufactures.

In Canada we have a situation not so different from that which existed in the United States sixty or seventy years ago, and which twenty-five years ago had its counterpart in the relations between the West and the old manufacturing States. There is no doubt that to-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta favour low tariff, or at least they are generally opposed to any increase of existing imposts. It is likely that the West would sanction a reduction of duties in return for a substantial preference in British markets. This, indeed, is a possible event of the near future, whether a Conservative or a Liberal Government rules at Ottawa.

As the years pass, however, industries will be established at Port Arthur and Fort William, at Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton, and in the Pacific Coast cities, and protection will steadily increase the number of its adherents in the West. In the meantime the political balance between East and West must be maintained. It may as well be understood that in any readjustment of duties Western opinion must be fairly and sympathetically considered.

It is manifest that Washington does not propose to extend tariff favours to Canada. This means that we must retain our own markets, and in so far as possible send trade from East to West through Canadian channels. A part of the burden of this situation must fall upon the railways and the manufacturers of the older provinces. It is sometimes said that the East has sacrificed much for the West. The truth is that we have sacrificed nothing. We are engaged in making a nation, and it is out of

the question to talk of sacrifices upon the one side or the other. The West is entitled to pull its own weight in the Confederation, and is under no obligation to make sacrifices to the rest of the country.

* * *

A TRIBUTE TO THE PRESS.

(Montreal Star.)

SIR ROBERT PERKS, an English Liberal, paid an indirect tribute to the press in the course of a speech before the Toronto Empire Club the other day. By way of explanation to his audience why outsiders got what he claimed was an erroneous impression of the purposes and principles of the Liberal party, he said that "the fact was that the Liberal party had no powerful exponent of its opinions in the British press. Nearly all the leading newspapers were in the hands of the Conservative party, and hence it was that the case for British Liberalism was not presented fairly in the extracts cabled from the British press."

Without discussing whether or not Sir Robert gave a quite just estimate of the work of the largely independent press of Britain, it is perfectly clear that he is convinced that his party is at a most grievous disadvantage because of its weakness in newspapers. It has a record majority in the House of Commons; it has a splendid organisation throughout the country; it has literally thousands of good speakers who frequently present its claims to the people; and it has a "front bench" in the Commons that has seldom been beaten for ability. Yet it finds itself in an altogether false position in the minds of people who are not closely in touch with its propaganda because it lacks support in the press.

This is the opinion of a publicist and a speaker. It is the verdict of the platform on the incalculable value of its great rival, the press. The spoken word may set an audience alight, but it cannot carry across the seas and the continents. The Liberals of Britain would be in far worse plight if the entire press did not fully report the utterances of its leaders. When Mr. Asquith makes a great speech, it appears verbatim in every British paper of note, and has at least as good an effect on behalf of his party as if the editors of these papers had given just so much of their space that day to Liberal writers. Denied access to the press entirely, no great party could live. Even when the editorial pages are steadily against it, it is heavily handicapped, and fails especially to reach distant audiences.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. LYLE!

(Hamilton Times.)

THE election of Rev. Dr. Lyle to the honourable position of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is a compliment to an able, devoted and worthy minister, and to the city in which he has given so many of the years of his life to the service of the church. For over thirty-one years Rev. Dr. Lyle has ministered to a Hamilton congregation. Few occupants of Canadian pulpits have won such wide and enduring respect and esteem. He is a man of culture, breadth of view, wide tolerance, and unlimited devotion to the propagation of the simple Gospel of Christ as set forth in the Scriptures. To such a man the honour conferred by the Assembly comes with excellent grace; and on his part, he will do the office credit. The Moderatorship has been held by a long line of worthy captains in the Church; but by none more worthy or capable of upholding the honour and dignity of Presbyterianism than by Rev. Dr. Lyle.

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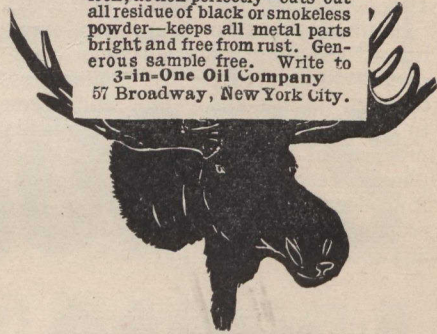


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