

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1920.

THE TARIFF QUESTION.

The most important question before the country at the present time is undoubtedly that of the tariff, and it is in order that the fullest information as to the most satisfactory method of arranging this may be obtained that the Tariff Commission is now about to open its sessions. Every one who can render any assistance by furnishing information likely to be useful in framing a tariff that, while producing a reasonable proportion of revenue, will not bear too heavily on any particular industry or interest, will be glad to hear. It is under a protective tariff that Canada has been able to attain her present prominent position in the commercial world, and through it the wealth and prosperity that her people now enjoy; and to go back on the principle of reasonable protection would be nothing short of a grave disaster. It is the policy of the Meighin Government to adhere to the principle of moderate protection, so that the prosperity of the country and the welfare of its people may be maintained.

The party that Dr. Emery would support, if elected, places before the people a mixed policy, sometimes free trade, to try and meet the views of the agrarian element, sometimes tariff for revenue, sometimes protection. In a word, it is trying to be all things to all men, trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. Tariff for revenue as always practiced was, and is necessarily the same as moderate protection, and the very same as we have now.

It has been stated over and over again by responsible leaders of the opposition party that there is no difference between their platform and that of the United Farmers. If we accept their statement, here is their position then. The avowed claim of those who initiated the United Farmer Movement in the West, and who are using it to gain power, if possible, for themselves—at the most critical time in the history of trading and production conditions in the world—is to overthrow our trading policies which have been so successful in the past, and substitute free trade.

They do not tell us in a definite or understandable way how the money is to be raised to pay the interest on our war debt, to pay pensions, to take care of the wounded and maimed soldiers, to carry on government. They ask us to go it blind. They do not, as practical men should, take the national balance sheet in their hands and tell us specifically or definitely how the monies are to be raised in a better way than they are now being raised.

The carrying out of their policy would practically mean wiping out most of the large revenues derived through the Customs tariff, and nothing is offered in substitution except vague suggestions that we should get what is necessary from Income Tax, which, in the minds of those of our people who come forward as good citizens and pay that tax as high as it can safely be put. The Canadian Income Tax is higher than the United States tax on all incomes, higher than Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, or any other country on large incomes. Is this fact generally known? If it is raised again, is it not likely to keep out capital, to drive out capital and people as well?

They also talk about imposing a Land Tax, forgetting that that great Imperial statesman, Lloyd George imposed such a tax in England some years ago with a great flourish of trumpets and recently had to abandon it as impracticable; forgetting also that a commission appointed by the Manitoba Government to enquire into the question of land taxation, of which commission two reputable and responsible farmers—members of the Canadian Council of Agriculture—formed part, unanimously reported against the imposition of that kind of a tax, which, in the minds of those of our people who come forward as good citizens and pay that tax as high as it can safely be put.

If the Opposition party is to adopt the Farmers' platform, where would they land the country in a very short space of time?

No country ever had a greater opportunity than Canada to make wonderful progress. The cards are all in our hands if we only play them right. If we only keep our heads we will have a large flow of population and capital from other countries. The financiers of the world are just beginning to realize the tremendous extent of our natural resources, and the splendid advantages we have for manufacturing development by reason of our magnificent water powers; and, unless checked by immature statesmanship, we should see a great development of Canada, which will be of untold benefit to the whole people. All we have to do is to keep steady, and to be sane in our politics. We should not let the extremists and class agitators carry us away with their half-baked, half-digested theories. In these troublesome times, with such a steering wheel.

splendid prospect ahead of us, we should cling fast to that which we know, cling fast to sane, orderly, stable government for all classes, a government based upon the best Anglo-Saxon practice, and not allow ourselves to get tangled up in class movements based upon class consciousness, with selfishness as their motive, which can only lead to chaos, if not disaster.

WILL THERE BE A PROVINCIAL ELECTION?

Dame Rumor is notoriously a lying jade, but just the same, occasions have been known when the Dame told the truth. Just at present reports are current that the Provincial Government will likely call on a general election within the next couple of months, on the off chance that a snap verdict may strengthen its position in another House. There are more unlikely things than this reported decision of the Executive is correct. It is known that Premier Foster would feel considerably happier if he got rid of some of the weaker timber in his Cabinet. The Hon. J. P. Byrne, the Attorney-General, is said to be anxious to retire from office. His health is not as good as it might be by any means, and he feels that the cares of office can very well be transferred to some other shoulders. Then there is the recent rumour between Dr. Smith and his colleagues, which cannot be smoothed over unless the general Doctor "takes backwater" from the Minister of Agriculture, something that no self-respecting man would ever think of. He would doubtless be glad to get out also. The Hon. C. W. Robinson would be equally willing to make room for somebody else. The Hon. Robert Murray isn't needed at all, because the Comptroller-General does all his work under the personal direction of the Premier. Hon. Mr. Dugal is, from his lack of touch with affairs, more ornamental than useful, and can also readily be dispensed with. And it may also be that the Premier may think the time opportune to get a really live, practical man as head of the Agricultural department. So that some reconstruction in the Executive is not only quite a possibility, but might easily be advantageous to the Government.

Naturally, of course, no authoritative information can be got as yet on the subject, but if the Premier feels that by calling on an election with as little notice as possible he can catch the Opposition napping, it would be good tactics to do it. It was by following just those tactics that Premier Murray did so well in Nova Scotia, and Premier Foster may be under the impression that they would serve him just as well. The point for the Opposition is not to be caught napping.

NOT DEAD YET.

There is a type of person going about today prophesying the prompt dissolution of the British Empire. "Look at Egypt," he cries, "Look at Ireland! Look at India! We are quite prepared to contemplate all these countries not only with equanimity, but with cheerfulness. Both Egypt and India are going through a process of change inevitable as East and West came more in contact. The pace of this growth has been immensely stimulated by the world shock of the war. Naturally there are growing pains—that is all. This vitality is a sign of life, not of death. It would indeed be time to despair of the Empire if its Constitution and governing minds were so fast set in the old ways that they did not permit of local native self-government. Even Ireland is in no worse a state than she has been at least twice in the last hundred years—another sign of vitality. Much progress in grasping the Irish problem. The reply to the pessimist is the counter-attack. "Look at the loyalty of the Antipodes to the Prince; look at what all the Dominions did in the war! After the American War of Independence the croakers said the British Empire was ruined. It was just the reverse. And so it is today."

President Wilson, in connection with the troubles in the U. S. anthracite coal region, has declared that there is no difference between an arrangement by the men concerned collectively to take a vacation and a strike. So he declines to re-open the questions which he has approved. The logic is on the President's side. Events may show, however, that the strength is with the men.

One anti-suffrage editor called suffrage the "Useless fifth wheel in politics." To which a suffragist retorts that the fifth wheel is sometimes the most troublesome times, with such a steering wheel.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Decay of the Home?
(Belleville Daily Ontario.)

Of the insidious evils that beset society and endanger the country's future none is more to be feared than the decay of family life. In creating the home, humanity achieved its greatest social triumph for the reason that it insures its perpetuation upon a true and enduring basis. With no comparable substitute in sight, it would be folly to disregard this crowning result of age-long experience established upon Christian principles. For its permanent preservation and its place in the pulpit can unite upon the common ground of a paramount need. To the present and to posterity it asserts an equal obligation.

Modern tendencies conspire against the home. The exactions of business life, the opening of so many pursuits to women, multiplying organizations and the swirl of town diversions distract and divert from the household. The American type of life in flats, while adapted to the elderly leisured class, is far removed from the desirable family-rearing habit. Small wonder that someone has put into the mouth of modern childhood the caustic reproach: "When my father and mother forsake me then the community will take me up."

A Happy Phrase.
(Lethbridge Herald.)

When it comes to happy phrases, "Field of the cloth of gold," used by one of the visiting British editors, to describe the western wheat fields ripening for the harvest, was a very appropriate one, conveying an intensity of meaning.

Labor's Future.
(Winnipeg Free Press.)

Nothing can prevent a far more rapid and steady advance in the future if Labor sticks to the road it has thus far travelled; but if it wanders afield in the home of finding a paradise by the roadside it may land itself into the morass of disappointed hopes and lost opportunities.

The French-Canadians.
(Montreal Gazette.)

The French offer vivacity, picturesque imagination. In these qualities the British-Canadians are deficient. They are practical, and, if it dared to be whispered, a trifle stolid. Only—they have a genius for doing things they did in the past, and they recall their early work of civilizing and Christianizing on a silent and unknown continent. That, perhaps, produces a certain resentment toward those who have no traditions, and can only remember yesterday. But there is room to grow and touch elbows and be friends. And this brotherliness is all the more important in that Canada, as Sir Arthur Currie pointed out, is now a nation with the consciousness of nationhood.

A BIT OF VERSE

JUST SUPPOSE

If all that we say
In a single day,
With never a word left out,
We printed every word
In clear black and white,
I would prove queer reading, no doubt.
And then just suppose
Ere one's eyes he could close,
He must read the day's record
through,
Then wouldn't sigh,
And wouldn't one try
A great deal less talking to do?
And I more than half think
That many a kink
Would be smoother in life's tangled
thread.
If one-half that we say
In a single day
Were left forever unsaid,
—Unknown Author.

THE LAUGH LINE

Chicken-hearted people are always ready to hatch up an excuse.

Defined.

"What does it mean by 'being candid'?"
"Speaking unto others as you would not like them to speak to you."—Boston Transcript.

A Desperate Criminal.

Warden—"Your wife's here to see you."

Prisoner (desperately)—"Tell 'er I'm out!"—Fairplay (Vancouver, B. C.)

Tempted Fate.

What became of that girl Masherton who was flirting with last summer? You mean the girl that Masherton thought he was flirting with? She married him.—London Opinion.

Bright Student.

"Now," said the professor of chemistry, "under what combination is gold most quickly released?"
The student pondered a moment. "I know, sir," he answered. "Marriage."

Plumed himself on his knowledge.

Mrs. Casey (with fashion paper)—What are agrettes, Mike?
Casey—Weren't you ever in casualty, woman? Sure, it's what we send when we can't go.—Boston Transcript.

The Impossible.

Woman—Big, strong man like you begging? You ought to look around for work.
Tramp—Excuse me, lady, but I've got such a stiff neck I simply can't look around.

Misaligned.

It has come to our ears that a bricklayer who has been resting for the last six months suddenly decided last week to return to work, but unfortunately could not remember where he had left it.—The Passing Show.

The Long, Long Wait.

"How long has this restaurant been open?" asked the would-be diner.
"Two years," said the proprietor.
"I am sorry I did not know it," said the guest. "I should be better off if I had come here then."

"Yes," smiled the proprietor. "How is that?"

"I should probably have been served by this time if I had," said the guest, and the entire cordial vanished.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. All depending.
Sisley. Miss Mary Watkins and Miss Lorette, Mincer are practicing by holding a half of an onion in front of her eyes, while Miss Lorette Mincer prefers horse reddish.
Literary Notes. Sam Crosses big sister is away in the country using up her vacation, and Sam is learning to ride on the typewriter on her typewriter in her absence.

POEM BY SKIPPY MARTIN.
Safety Second.
Never tease dum animals,
In the first place its not rite,
And anyway besides in the 2nd place
Even the rummet can bite.

Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Puds Simkins has bin studying the habits of ants by watching some in his back yard, saying he mile rite a book on the subject if he notices any new habits.

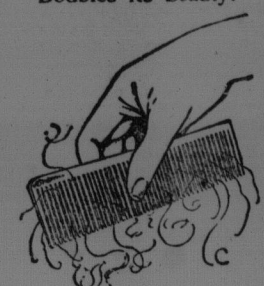
Holesome, delicious and durable. Home made muflasses candy, 35 cents a pound, in a bag, 36 in a box. See Low Davis. (Advertisement.)

A Bit Shy.

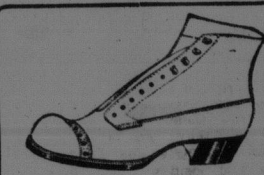
"Your hair," said the aggravating barber, "is coming out on top."
"Good!" cried the sensitive victim.
"I knew it was in me. Now, for goodness sake don't talk to it, or it'll crawl back again."

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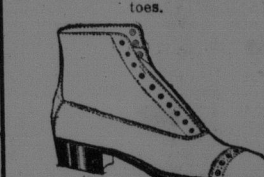


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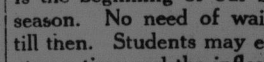
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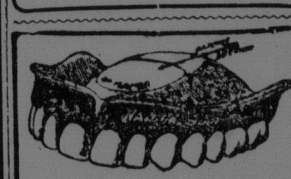
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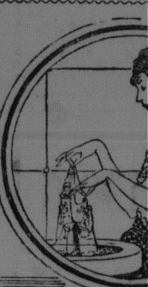
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