

## MR. W. S. LOGGIE DELIVERS ABLE SPEECH ON BUDGET

His Answer to Fallacies of Opposition Amendments and Arguments—Clean-Cut Defense of Tariff Proposals of Minister of Finance.

Mr. William S. Loggie (Northumberland, N. B.): Mr. Speaker, before I enter upon a discussion of the budget before the House, I might be permitted to extend a word or two to the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), who has returned to this House, I hope so thoroughly reinvigorated in health that he may be able to continue in the good work in which he is engaged? May I also express my word of congratulation to the Speaker of the House and to the Deputy Speaker of the House, that they are the first two gentlemen to occupy the chair in this wonderful chamber of its magnificent building.

Mr. Michael Clark: May I tell my hon. friend that the first plank in the platform of the Dominion Council of Agriculture is absolute freedom of all food?

Mr. Loggie: I am very glad to take this opportunity to state that I cannot entertain any such proposal for one moment, and I will give my reasons. There are very many manufacturers of food products in this country, and if you let goods of that kind in free you will destroy those industries.

I challenged the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) the other day in Montreal and told the Clark Company that he would let Kansas City and Chicago send in canned goods free of duty, for some years ago, I cannot let these goods in free without destroying the industries.

An hon. Member: What about fish? Mr. Loggie: Fish can come from the United States and there is no reason in the world why there should be a duty on fish, so far as I can see. There is no duty on fish going into the United States and this is the greatest boom that has come to the fishing industry in the last decade. There is another plank that I want to give my concurrence to. It is the plank in providing adequate revenue. I am glad that the minister has put that forward. It would be silly to put it in any other way. It would be silly to say that we can have a tariff for revenue these days. There was a day when a tariff for revenue might possibly have met the case. In 1917 our total customs receipts were under \$60,000,000—today we have reduced the customs revenue by that sum. Let me mention the opposite side of the coin. When you consider that we have to raise no less than approximately \$600,000,000 for some years to come and that \$340,000,000 of that is for interest you will surely not say that we can raise it from the customs. If you destroyed all our industries and let all our goods we consume come in under a reasonable duty, I suppose you could get a very large sum. Let me give you an example. The minister was wise when he laid emphasis on the fact that the customs duties are to assist in providing adequate revenue.

Then, the next step he takes is to specially promote and increase trade with the United States. I do not think we have been doing this. I have not heard any opposition to that; therefore I presume this is not objection to you. The next is to secure the interests of the Canadian people in the world's markets for commercial and industrial opportunity. In this young nation with the natural resources that we have, it does seem to me that if we are to grow, we are to become a great nation. We surely ought to manufacture the most of the goods that we consume. It should endeavor to export goods as well. Let me here illustrate as to the cost of goods. Today our goods cost more than they did a few years ago. It is a mere allegation, and so far as I can see it is not in accordance with the facts. The hon. member further says that we tax middle and poorer classes who will pay this tax, but I venture to say that all the people in Canada will share in the benefit that will be derived from the reduction of the duty on cotton. Then the leader of the Opposition says that we are safeguarding the rich and their friends. I do not know what ground he had for that statement, but I can see not the slightest shadow of actual fact in it.

Now Mr. Speaker, let me point out what a constructive tariff is. The Minister of Finance tells the people of Canada that he intends to have a thorough revision of the tariff, and more than that, he tells them on what basis that revision and investigation will be made. It is to that point that I wish to direct attention particularly, because if the Minister of Finance carries out his proposal on the basis which he has stated, then I say that the effect will not be such as has been suggested by the leader of the Opposition. I say that the policy of the Minister will tend to reduce the duty on the necessities of life and will be a step in the direction of relieving the cost of living. I say, Mr. Speaker, that it will not protect the producers instead of the consumer, nor will it unduly tax the middle and poorer classes any more than those who are better able to bear taxation. Indeed, Sir, there is every indication that those best able to bear taxation will be asked to shoulder the brunt of it. Now the first plank in the minister's platform—and this will surely bear out my statements—is an undertaking to prevent the abuse of the tariff for the exploitation of the consumer. I would ask the hon. member for Sherburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) whether he does not approve of that plank. That hon. gentleman would protect infant industries, but I am sure he will agree that it is an eminently wise provision of this plank, that consuming public are not to be subsidized. The first plank of the minister's platform therefore announces the fact that the consumer will be taken care of. The second plank is to stabilize legitimate industries and encourage the establishment of new industries essential to the proper economic development of the nation. Perhaps some hon. gentleman will contend that these cannot go together. My view is different; I think they can and ought to go together.

## The Buying of "Cheap" Tea, is a peculiar circumstance—The less you pay, the more it costs

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amount of the depreciated currency. Placing raw cotton at forty cents per pound taking 7½ per cent of that sum, then the adverse exchange and the profit, by the time the article gets to the consumer, there is a reduction in the cost, because the duty is taken off the raw material, equal to about five per cent on the finished product. The objection raised by some hon. gentlemen is that the Treasury does not get the benefit, but that millionaires profit. I am not so sure that is the case at the present time. The conditions at the present time are abnormal. Labor in the United States is as high as it is in Canada, and the same condition prevails in the United States. If we could get our raw material in free duty I do not see why we cannot produce the goods very cheaply. I cannot see why we do not produce the goods very cheaply. I cannot see why we do not produce the goods very cheaply. I cannot see why we do not produce the goods very cheaply.

Today the cost of living is not very different from what it is in the United Kingdom or in the United States, and with textiles in Canada practically as cheap as in those two countries, any reduction in duty would lower the cost of living. If that be so, then what duties are we to lower? I want to say just a word about the tariff part of the program. The Liberal party should itemize certain articles and ask that they be put on the free list when they are already on the free list. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you a secret. The Liberal party has asked that nets and awl twines be put on the free list, whereas they have been on the free list ever since Confederation. Why do they ask that goods which have been on the free list for a long time to be put on the free list? Do you not think Mr. Speaker, that such a course would have a tendency to relieve the public? Would the people conclude that nets and awl twines are now on the dutiable list? Would they not conclude that lumber, rough and planed on one side, is also now dutiable? That gascene is now dutiable? Whereas all the items I have mentioned are on the free list? Yet that is part of a plank in the Liberal platform.

Now, the next thing they ask is that the principal articles of food be made free. Evidently the member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) has been educated since this time last year, because in his amendment of last year he asked that all food products be made free; now the demand is that the principal food products be made free. Mr. McMaster: We wanted to protect the public from jobbers. Mr. Loggie: Allow me to say to the hon. member that that will not be a very easy matter. If you get a lobster for you, you have to look out. In my judgment it is not practicable in Canada to make all the principal food products free. Of course I am referring not to the food products that are now free, but simply to those that are on the dutiable list. I say that it is not practicable to have them all free, because if you did you would destroy a domestic industry. Now, they ask also that mining, flour and saw-mill machinery and agricultural implements be made free. On what basis are they to be made free? Why do you ask that saw-mill machinery be made free while other machinery shall be dutiable? No basis is submitted, so far as I can see. No provision is made for the continued output of domestic-made machinery; no provision for loss of revenue incurred through abolishing duties; no suggestion for the imposition of a new tax on the consumer. Perhaps hon. gentlemen are quite right in that, because a tariff for revenue is not practicable at the present time, although hon. gentlemen have argued in favor of it. This platform does not recognize the gigantic annual revenue that is required, nor does it suggest how we should overtake it if it were reduced as is set forth in this platform. Now, Mr. Speaker, just a word about our friends on the other side and the

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## BOARD OF COMMERCE REPORT WITH Sets Forth Difficulties and Observed Lacked Authority to Go Abroad. Commend Amendments to Efficiency of Board.

Ottawa, June 10.—The Board of Commerce has filed its report with Parliament covering its activities since its inception. It plainly sets forth the many difficulties encountered, and that it was quite impossible to get results desired, as the Board lacked full authority and power required in many instances.

A list follows of the hearings, investigations and decisions of the Board between August 29, 1919 and March 31, 1920, in fifteen different cities of Canada and the United States on general matters and ten hours hearings on the new tariff situation between October 11, 1919 and March 16, 1920. The board's control of newsprint and newsprint paper was a measure no longer justified. Sugar, milk, bread, pork, clothing, drugs, electric lamps, wax, paper, canned goods and coal, are amongst the specific commodities touched on in the report, investigation having been made of several alleged monopolies.

Dealing in its concluding remarks, with the investigation of combines, the Board states that only lack of a competent staff has prevented it from going further into this matter. Dissenting from the view expressed by Judge H. A. Robson, ex-Chief Commissioner of the Board, that the operations committed to the Board were impossible of operation, the present commissioners point out that the Combines and Fair Prices Act relates as well as to fair prices to combines, trusts and mergers, and to this first part of the Act says the report, it was the experience of the commissioners during the regime of the ex-chief commissioner (G. Robson) it was very difficult to secure any attention. In the end the present commissioners themselves (the report continues) very shortly before the resignation of the ex-chief commissioner, and without his assent, set into the first part of the Combines and Fair Prices Act with the result that the Board is now in possession of many hundreds of returns, the scope of which may be judged upon reading the summary of returns in this report. The board's investigations into the existence of combines, trusts, mergers and making arrangements in steadily proceeding and it, and where the board's jurisdiction is established, the board will be prepared to take such action as may be necessary.

The Board states that in this connection it does not prejudice any combine as to the public detriment. It has not been supplied with adequate staffs to digest the mass of information in its possession. A hundred staple articles of groceries, including many trade marks, the commodities, are included in this list.

Dealing in a general way with returns from retailers, the Board states that many are reporting regularly and finding that the close scrutiny over their business operations, necessary to the compilation of the reports, is beneficial to the conduct of their business. Many are not reporting, and will be prosecuted, says the report. The work entailed in printing and deciding upon the character of all these associations and price-fixing systems, the Board points out, is so vast that it has to be postponed until the Board is authorized to secure necessary and trustworthy assistance. This work was to have been done by the Trade and Transportation section of the Board which has never been in force, because the Civil Service Commission refused to sanction the employment of the Board's appointees to the directorate of this division, after four months of application. The civil service commission is shown, through the report, to have handicapped the work of the Board of Commerce, and the Board's report states frankly that it cannot continue useful operation unless its experts can be chosen and paid.

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