

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1920

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THE TARIFF QUESTION.

"Canada taxes the necessities of life and articles of common consumption far more heavily than any other important trading and manufacturing nation."

This statement is made by the Toronto Globe. As one illustration of its truth the Globe refers to an address by Hon. S. J. Latta, provincial minister of highways in Saskatchewan, in which it was shown that out of a total sum of \$627,500,000 raised by the Dominion from taxation during the war period, 1914-18—\$690,000,000, or 94 per cent, consisted of taxes on consumption; and that in Great Britain during the same four years the taxes totalled \$8,040,000,000, of which only \$2,280,000,000 were taxes on consumption, the remainder coming from property and income tax.

As showing the trend in England toward relief for the consumers and toward direct taxation it is further pointed out that "while in the fiscal year 1914-15 the taxes of the British government were levied in the proportion of 33 per cent on property and income and 47 per cent on consumption, the proportions in the year 1917-18 were 81 per cent on property and income and 19 per cent on consumption;" and that the following change took place in the United States:

"The tariff and taxation laws of the United States were so changed that, whereas in 1916-17 only \$125,000,000 were raised by the national government in the form of property and income tax, the total was increased to \$8,726,000,000 under heading in 1918-19, while taxes on consumption were increased from \$601,000,000 to \$2,601,000,000. The proportion of the republic's national revenue obtained from property and income was increased, therefore, within three years from 17 per cent to 69."

Such comparisons as these do not show up the Canadian tariff system in a favorable light. Taxes on consumption under that system bear most heavily upon those least able to pay. Hence the Toronto Globe contends that "substantial justice will not be done to the small consumer in Canada until at least half of the total revenue of the Dominion comes from property and income instead of from consumption."

BEATING THE WAR POST.

The Montreal Gazette urges the Conservatives to get together. It says that when Mr. S. Howard Ferguson in Toronto the other day declared there could be no permanent Unionist party in Canada, and that the Union government at Ottawa had finished its work, he "put into words the thoughts of many who count themselves Conservative in politics, who supported Conservative governments in the past, who enabled the Jordan government from 1914 to 1917 to carry out its war measures programme, and who were the mainstay of the Union government in the elections of 1917."

The Gazette notes the fact that Hon. Messrs. McEwen and Cresser have retired from the government and the latter, "in the minds of his admirers, at least, has since become practically leader of an opposition party and a candidate for the position of prime minister." It finds also that "earnest Unionist members in the house have gone over to the opposition, and more are likely to follow," and that if there should come a crisis for the government in the coming session it "would have little to depend upon but the Conservatives whose voice has not had much heed given to it of late." The Gazette says there is a strong Conservative element in the country, and asserts that "the government will have a right to appeal to it in a general election before handing over power to its opponents." That is to say, if the government cannot carry on it should appeal to a Conservative policy and appeal to the people. There will be no objection to that course. The people will be quite ready to express their views at the polls whenever they are given the opportunity. Nor will they object to a chance to say what they think on the tariff question.

WHERE ROADS ARE ROADS.

The Maritime Merchant relates a conversation with a former Nova Scotia merchant now living in California. In answer to the question: "What is the thing in the golden west which impressed you most?" the Californian replied:

"The most impressive thing in California to a man from Nova Scotia is the condition of the roads. The California roads are a never ending source of wonder as well as pleasure to the man who uses them, particularly if he comes from these parts. Good roads are almost a religion in California. The government of the state, or of a county, or of a town, may hesitate about voting money for a good many things that are needed, but they never balk at expenditure when it involves the improvement of their roads, and with the result that one can drive for hundreds of miles in one direction without getting a bump or encountering an obstacle such as we meet on our roads about every hundred yards."

But the visitor did not stop at that point. He went on to say that the one thing necessary to add to the California roads to make touring a thorough delight was the scenery of Nova Scotia. And to Nova Scotia we may add New Brunswick. We have the scenery and the summer climate, but we lack the roads. The sooner we can have them the better.

The February number of The Clerk devotes a page to civic politics and puts their duty up to its readers in this plain and vigorous fashion: "To be a good citizen, and for the welfare of St. John, it is necessary that you take an interest in civic affairs. The man who does not vote is of the class of the man without an opinion. You know what you think of him. It is a lamentable fact that the election of recent years have shown a remarkable lack of interest on the part of your clerks and salaried men. The future of the city of St. John depends upon you. You can either boost it into a progressive and go-ahead city, or keep it in a state of stagnation. Which are you going to do? When your employer hired you, did he give you a position because you were out of work? Did he hire you out of sympathy? No! He gave you a job because he thought you were the best man he could get for the welfare of his business. What kind of a man are you going to hire to manage your city? Study the candidates who are coming forward. Judge them by their achievements, and then vote."

The old adage: "We never miss the water till the well runs dry," is well illustrated on such a day as this. The citizen who has a long way to go to his work or business misses the street car. The reader of the newspapers cannot get all the news because the wires are down. Mails are delayed and business hampered. There is a temporary return to conditions long outgrown. The person who has a fund of stories about the old-fashioned winter maintains a discreet silence.

The grim wantonness of nature was well illustrated by yesterday's storm. Trees fed from nature's sources till they had grown to strength and beauty were covered with a coating of ice so heavy that branches and even trees were overladen and fell broken to the earth. In the ephemeral beauty which charmed the eye lurked the element of destruction. The damage done among the few trees that grace the city's open spaces is severe, and can only be repaired after the lapse of years.

The Times-Star commends to its readers the letter of Mr. Walter H. Golding in this issue. His description of that old-time skating race which brought glory to St. John proves he has lost none of the art of a trained newspaper man, and whoever reads the story will hope that Gorman, late of the 26th Battalion, may try his blades on the ice of Lake Placid for the honor of his native city.

The first issue of The Union Worker devoted to the interests of organized labor, has just appeared. Mr. A. D. Colwell is the managing editor. The contents of this issue indicate that The Union Worker will be an aggressive journal. Among other things it advocates the formation of an Independent Labor party in politics and a return to the ward system in the city of St. John.

The unveiling of a tablet in the General Public Hospital in honor of Major Duval was a tribute to a brave man who even in death was pursued by the malignity of the Hun. "His grave," in the words of the memorial, "is the Atlantic ocean," but his example was a living inspiration to his fellow-countrymen.

The influenza is subsiding in New York but spreading in some other centres. It is less virulent than the previous epidemic.

There were 1,716 cases before the Montreal juvenile court last year. It is an essential part of the city's helpful institutions, and is so regarded by the citizens.

The naval programme of the United States suggests that the government anticipates more or less activity in spreading the news that there are to be no more wars.

The rector of Berlin University will return the diplomas formerly received from British and American universities. Is not that giving comfort to the enemy?

In three weeks parliament will be in session at Ottawa. A weak government will face a stormy house.

Frederick correspondence in this issue of the Times-Star replies effectively to the Standard's criticisms of the provincial government finances.

Miss Anne Belle Ford of Sackville was married there on Wednesday last to Lieutenant Harry Titus of Digby, N. S. Rev. H. E. Thomas officiated in the Methodist church.



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ON THE JOB.

It is a pleasant thing to find the man who knows his trade; he ornaments the human kind, his fame will never fade. I take my car to divers shops to have the things repaired, what time the carburettor pops, and busted wires are bared. And one will toll around all day, and make the blamed thing worse; and if he duly gets his pay, he cares no tinker's curse. Another breaks a costly piece as with a sledge he beats; one smears a lot of rancid grease upon the velvet seats. And then I find the able gen who knows just what to do; he finds the rinkum that is bent, the one that's broke in two. He diagnoses my old boat as some great surgeon might, and he restores my errant goat, and fills me with delight. In ten brief minutes he has found just why the motor stuck; he deily makes the wheels go round, and taxes me one buck. His shirt is damp, with motor oil, he is in grim arrayed, but has my blessing as he tells—the man who knows his trade.

CANADA—EAST AND WEST

Domestic Happenings of Other Days.

END OF FRENCH RULE.

On February 10, 1703, the French government formally ratified the preliminary treaty of peace by which the French lands in the New World passed into the control of the British. Ever since the conclusion of active military operations the previous autumn the terms of peace and the settlements of the day. But though the fighting had ceased the spirit prevailing between Great Britain and France was most bitter. Envoys sent to France were ill-treated while the French representative was hooted when he landed at Dover. The financial condition of France was desperate; her people were burdened with taxation and her expenditure annually was almost double her revenue.

The big question in all the peace discussion was the future of Canada. Was it to be restored to France? Pitt was out of power and sick; had been ruling it is certain he would have been the last of the French. As it was, when peace was finally agreed upon, it gave the French the right to fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and left that nation two small islands there as a base for their ships. This was on the understanding that they were not to be fortified in any way for war purposes.

A dramatic incident in the history of the settlement of the House of Commons in London on December 5, the debate on the understanding of the House, was absent, suddenly a great cheering was heard outside and a moment later the speaker was rushed into the House. He was wrapped in flames and evidently in great pain. For three hours he reviewed the subject, saying that France must not be giving fishing rights or any islands in the Gulf. The House then voted. This ended France's dreams of an American empire.

LIGHTER VEIN.

It wasn't Fresh Skater—Eer—aren't we acquainted? (Suddenly comes a croupy, young lady gliding gracefully away)—Well, it's not a long-standing acquaintance, anyway.

Well Informed.

Teddy—let you don't know what a—after a man's name means. Tottie—do, too. It means Esquimaux.

Family Matters.

"I shall complain to the floor-walker about you," said the lady doer. "I have no doubt he will agree with everything you say," answered the saleslady, smiling. "Then he is acquainted with your shortcomings?" "He thinks he is. He's my husband,"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Reason.

"What's his reputation?" "Rather good. He never lived in a small town."

"O, George, dear," said the anxious girl, who had been over her father's shoulder, "what did papa say?" "Agnes, my love," said the old diplomatist, "I don't think your father's friends half appreciate what a vigorous speaker he is, or what a wonderful command of language he possesses."

"One of them fellows that moved in from the North a spell ago got into trouble yesterday," related a citizen of the Sandy Mush (Ark) region. "He was holed in the field when Gabe Gireyry clumb the fence and went over to howly with him. They got to talking politics, one word bring on another, and directly Gabe yanked the hoe away from him, whacked him over the head with it, and like to have sold his skull."

"Hm! Something powerful funny about most of them Northerners," commented an acquaintance. "What in thunder was he doing holed in the field, anyhow? Hain't he got no wife?"

The massive Hercules, dashed down the field with one of his characteristic rushes and, sweeping through the opposition to the delight of the home crowd, scored a touchdown.

"Why didn't you try to stop him?" roared the visiting captain to one of his half-backs.

"Try to stop him he hanged!" replied the player. "It took all my time to get out of his way."

SAFE GROUND TO TAKE.

Hon. Mackenzie King, the Liberal leader, was on safe ground when he spoke, against class rule, whether by the big interests, farmers, laborites, veterans, the new enfranchised women. The aim of democracy should be to secure, in the government of the country, the fair representation of all classes, and to prevent the domination of any. The complaint has often been heard that there has been too much class rule in this country in the past.

George Colpitts, of Alma, was injured while at work on C. T. White & Sons' mill there a few days ago. His left arm was caught in the machinery and badly lacerated.

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MUST MODIFY PEACE TREATY FOR GERMANY

Sir George Paish Says the Germans Can't Fulfill Terms

Credit for France—Twenty Billions Required to Stop World Anarchy and Starvation.

(Toronto Globe.)

Sir George Paish, eminent British financial authority and former editor of The Statesman, took a large part at the Open Forum in Foresters Hall, Sunday afternoon, that the Peace Treaty should be modified in order to make it practical for Germany. The present terms of the Peace Treaty were impossible to fulfill.

Before coming to America Sir George said he visited Germany in order to discover just what the situation was. He found there was great misery, and that the people were on the border of starvation. Unless they are given credit it is essential that they be provided that the obvious they are going right over to the left and there will be anarchy. It is essential that the credit be given to the country in order that women and children, who were not responsible for the war, should be saved from destruction. It was also necessary that credit shall be provided for France.

What the terms of the treaty could not possibly be carried out providing for the payment of huge sums to her by Germany, we must not put back on her as one of our friends. France is now waiting for the German indemnity to re-establish her, but Germany cannot pay. The size of the indemnities has taken all hope out of Germany.

"Germany must work to pay for the damage she caused in the war," declared Sir George. "If you ask her to pay more than she is able to pay you will get nothing. France cannot be restored out of the sums received from Germany, and therefore the rest of us, including England, must make good this balance."

Work for League of Nations.

It was absolutely necessary that the League of Nations should be made to function at the earliest possible moment.

"We, the democracies of the world, must see that the League of Nations works well and responds to the public opinion of the world expressed freely upon all world questions. Whether that League of Nations will work well, to some degree, depends upon you. It will in some degree also depend upon us in England. But it will depend entirely upon you, or us, but upon the democracies of the entire world."

"When at last the people of the world realize that the government of the world is to be by the people of the world for the people of the world, we shall have no more wars," declared the speaker, amid applause.

Open Discussion Prevents Wars.

The great war was due to the fact that international affairs were left in the hands of a few people. Had the democracies of the world understood what was going on they would have seen that there would have been no war. It is essential that in the future all world affairs shall be freely discussed, so that the democracies of the world may determine the policy of nations. In these days the interests of the nations are almost identical. They are not antagonistic. It is only the interests of nations were more antagonistic.

Before the last war every nation to some extent was dependent upon other nations for its well-being. Such was the case in England, France, in Germany, and also in Russia. One of the most serious things of present was the Balkanization of Russia, and that was largely the result of that country being unable to sell the things she produced and to purchase the things she needed. It brought disorganization. The break-down of Russia had made not only difficulties for Russia but for the whole world.

The same thing was true of America, Sir George continued. She is the greatest exporter in the world today. Her hold of how years ago British financiers loaned money to build American railroads. Englishmen lost large sums of money in American investments in those days. They didn't complain. They believed in the future of America and they still believe in the future of America.

Canada's Opportunity.

"I believe that Canada has got a very great future," continued the speaker. "I believe within the next few years the progress will be such that every man you have the means here of satisfying the needs of life such as no other country has. Your railways are already built. All you need is population. We will help supply you the population and then you will be able to supply us the food which we will require. Europe will need more food in the future than it has ever needed in the past. Her power to produce food has gone down during the war in a serious manner, and to my mind it will never be restored."

Sir George next turned to some of the effects of the war, pointing out how dis-

GETTING AFTER RENT PROTEFTEERS

(Quebec Telegraph.)

Montrealers, very properly, are not inclined to sit down and quietly suffer without protest to the powers that be, the profiteering being practised by certain landlords in that city. At a meeting of the City Improvement League a day or two ago it was agreed that a deputation should be at once sent to Quebec to interview the government on the subject, and it was reported that the deputation would be headed by the League, and that the League would be ready to accompany the deputation. This is as it should be. The citizens have a right to expect that the municipal authorities should keep an open eye on the interests of the ratepayers and be ready to protect them against extortion of every kind. While Montreal is taking this active move in the direction of checking the efforts of certain real estate profiteers to take the people by the throat, it would be interesting to know what Quebecers are doing in the matter.

MUST LEARN ENGLISH.

New York, Feb. 5.—"The time will come when a man who can't speak English will be sent to jail," said Magistrate W. Bruce Cobb to an Austrian summoned before him this morning. "How long have you been in this country?" "Six years," was the reply, through an interpreter. "Well you ought to be ashamed of yourself. There is no legitimate excuse for your not having at least a speaking knowledge of our language. I want to take this occasion to warn you that the time is coming when a man who can't speak English here will be sent to jail without the option of a fine."

The man said he had a wife and two children, and that he was so busy making a living for them he had no time to learn English.

"That's all tommyrot," said his honor. "You learn English."

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