

supporting men and measures which reflect no lustre upon Canada. Calling these men baldheads and kickers don't hurt any; but it may be a fatal mistake to suppose that they will continue to adhere to the Conservative party indefinitely, even as it now is, and without a tenfold multiplication of its faults, if no resolute and effective efforts are put forth to pacify a disgusted people. The serious situation which is now menacing the Conservative party, but of which the leaders seem oblivious, is the direct outcome of the two-thirds majority in the House of Commons.

A few days ago the *Empire* published the following telegram from Ottawa:—

Before Hon. J. A. Chapleau left his office in the Customs Department he recommended to the Council that cigars, wines, spirits, malt liquors, etc., and silverware, when imported by the various permanent military schools for officers' messes in Canada, be duty free, the same privilege being now extended to the Imperial troops.

Mr. Chapleau was elected to the Dominion House of Commons on the distinct claim by him that he was a supporter of the National Policy; and he has definite knowledge that cigars, wines, spirits, malt liquors and silverware—all of them articles of luxury—are manufactured in Canada. He also knows that although such supplies intended for the Imperial troops in Canada are admitted free, none of these enumerated are admitted duty free into Great Britain. And then, common people—those who are not connected with the officers' messes of the militia—want to know why these well-fed and well-paid men, who delight in gaudy clothing and brass buttons, should be favored by the Government to the extent indicated above their fellow Canadian mortals. Davis cigars, Pelee Island wines, Gooderham and Walker whiskies, Cosgrove and O'Keefe ales, and Acme and Toronto silverware are all good enough for common people, and to most Canadians who indulge in such luxuries the Canadian articles are quite good enough for them. We most seriously object to Mr. Chapleau's exhibition of favoritism. We are opposed to any class legislation.

A WRITER in the *Montreal Herald* who signs himself "Experientia Docet," in attempting to show that the cost of living to workingmen is greater in Canada than in Great Britain, points to the fact that the rent of a residence in Canada which costs \$450 per year is not equal in accommodation to a similar one in the Old Country which cost only £40, (\$195), that gas rates, water rates and municipal taxes are in the same proportion, and that a person with a salary of \$1,500 in England can live more comfortably than on \$3,000 in Canada; and he wails about "our outrageous customs tariff" which imposes "duty on perfumed soaps £51, 6s., 8d. sterling, per British ton." If "Experientia Docet" is not a myth he is a chump. Workingmen in Canada do not usually live in houses for which the rent is \$450 per year, for first-class solid brick residences with all modern improvements can be had for half that amount, or less. And then if he can get \$1,500 per year for his services in England, and only \$3,000 in Canada, why in the name of common sense don't he return to the place whence he came and do better. And the *Herald's* chump must be a sweet-scented one if he can't keep himself clean on good Canadian soaps upon which he has to

pay no duty whatever, but has to import perfumed soaps upon which he has to pay duty to the tune of, say, \$250 per ton. Of course the letter of "Experientia Docet" is just the sort of an argument the *Herald* wanted to show the laboring men of Canada how much better off they would be under free trade.

MR. DEALON MCCARTHY, Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn, the *Montreal Star* and the *Toronto Globe* are alleging that the N.P. is a serious tax on Canadians, and especially on the farmer. We are still pressing for one specific case of hardship. For two or more specific cases. Please give them to us. Tell us while you are about it how much the average farmer pays toward the N.P. revenue and on what articles. No general statement, but specific instances. We've been asking for these for six months. After we have got answers of this nature we may have another nut to crack, namely, what easier way is there of raising a revenue, and we must have a revenue, than the N.P. tariff? Come now, gentlemen, get down to the facts.—*Toronto World*.

This invitation is not addressed to us, and for fear those who are questioned may not be able to respond to the *World's* challenge, we suggest that the present sugar schedule of the tariff imposes a serious and unnecessary tax not only on the farmer but upon all Canadians, and that the Order-in-Council passed only a few days ago accentuates the wrong. This is one specific case of hardship. The present duty on refined illuminating oil is another specific case of hardship upon the whole country. The present duty on crude petroleum, and the prohibition of it except in Yankee barrels is another specific case of hardship. Hard upon our manufacturers because it denies them the use of cheap liquid fuel, and hard upon our coopers because oil, crude and refined, can only be imported in Yankee-made barrels. We have specified as many cases as the *World* asked for, but we could extend the list.

MR. THOMAS COOMBS, a manufacturer of Bedford, England, has been in the city for the past few days, and so greatly taken is he with the future prospects of our nickel mines that he has invested largely in the purchase of some properties, and together with certain Toronto capitalists have decided to form a company under the name of the Anglo-American Nickel Mining Company, with capitalization of \$400,000. What is wanted is British capital with Canadian enterprise, and our nickel mines, the best in the world, will soon be developed.—*Toronto World*.

What is wanted quite as much, or more, is an export duty on nickel ore and matte, going to any country that imposes an import duty on Canadian refined nickel. Our nickel mines are now developed to an extent commensurate with the demand for the refined nickel in the United States. With no other as available source of supply as Canada, the selfishness of the United States imposes a prohibitive duty of \$200 per ton on Canadian refined nickel, but admits the crude material duty free. Of course as long as Canada submits to that sort of thing, just so long will we be without a nickel refining industry. If we impose an export duty of \$200 per ton on the nickel contained in the ore and matte going to the United States, that country would either contribute very largely to the Canadian treasury, or it would remove the duty on Canadian refined nickel, and on several other articles also. If that were done both British and Canadian capital and enterprise—and Yankee too—would find rich reward in refining Canadian nickel in Canada. Impose the duty.