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Ministerial Encouragement

The discussion in the House of Commons, Ottawa, a couple of weeks ago, on Mr. Rhodes' resolution re immigration to the Maritime Provinces, elicited strong encouragement from the Hon. Mr. Rogers, Minister of the Interior. The debate, it will be remembered, was most interesting and pregnant with information regarding the advantages of these Provinces, as a field for immigration from the Old Country. A number of the members from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island contributed to the discussion, and then the Hon. Minister of the Interior closed the debate, in words of genuine encouragement. Hon. Mr. Rogers' declaration sounded a new and welcome note on this important question. He spoke as follows:

"As the minister presiding over the Department of the Interior, I propose to invite immigration to the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in the same form and manner and with the same hope of results that I do to the other provinces of the Dominion, believing as I do with an intense conviction that we have in the maritime provinces, in common with the other provinces of Canada, great possibilities which should attract immigrants who want to better their condition. As a result of that great National Policy which was laid down many years ago, and which has been adopted and followed by both parties in this Dominion from that day to this, we are in the proud position in Canada of being able to point to the fact that we have more desirable conditions for intending immigrants than those which can be found in any other country in the world. Therefore, it becomes my duty as the minister for that department to lend every energy I possess to the work of carrying out a policy such as I believe will be best calculated to increase our population to the advantage of those who come as well as for the upbuilding of the country. Adopting, as we have, a policy which we believe to be that calculated to advance the best interests of our common country, a policy that will be common to all the provinces of Canada, I do not desire, in speaking of our immigration, to know either eastern Canada or Western Canada. Let me say to those who have spoken this afternoon that we are going to inaugurate a policy by which we shall give publicity to every Province in Canada. I am here to say, as representing the Department of Immigration and voicing the policy of the government of the day, that we propose a policy of co-operation with all the provinces to lend every assistance in our power to give to the maritime provinces and to the other provinces all the support and all the assistance that a very healthy treasury is able to give, in order to bring immigration to Canada, with a view to having here a happy and contented people in greater, and much greater numbers than we have at this time."

The Borden Government have approved of the development of Courtney Bay, St. John N. B., at a cost of \$11,000,000, the work to cover four years. Actions speak louder than words.

The Tariff Commission.

On Wednesday last, Hon. Mr. White, Minister of Finance, moved the second reading of his bill to provide for the appointment of a Tariff Commission. The bill was bitterly opposed by the Opposition, and the debate went over and was continued on Thursday. Finally the motion of the Minister carried on a vote of 102 to 52, a majority of 50 for the Government. The minister pointed out that the commission would have no administrative powers, but would be restricted to acquiring information. In this respect, Hon. Mr. White showed following the example of Germany, which employed thirty experts in work of this kind. Concluding his speech the Finance Minister said:

"I do not wish it to be inferred in any way that the Government has modified its policy as to reasonable and adequate protection of the industries of this country. (Ministerial cheers). I am not a believer in high protection, but I am a believer—an absolute believer—in reasonable and adequate protection for the development of the resources and the building up of the industries of this country. Next to the power to make laws for the peace and good order of the community, I do not believe there is any power exercised by the Government more important than that of fixing tariff rates. A problem which confronts us is this: how shall we arrange the tariff so as to provide for the upbuilding of the industries and the development of our resources yet at the same time be just and equitable to all classes of the community? That is a problem, and I say that in order to do that it is necessary that we should obtain all the information possible. We cannot have too much information in order that we may try at least to accomplish this result. It is for the purpose of obtaining that information, it is an aid to the solution of the problem of obtaining it, upon which an equitable tariff can be based, fair to all, while reasonably protecting the industries of the country and the labor dependent upon these industries; it is for that purpose that this bill has been brought down by the Government.

Last year potatoes were scarce and high priced in the Maritime Provinces and plentiful and cheap across the border. As a result many carloads of Maine potatoes were brought here, freight and duty paid and sold in competition with the home product. Now there is a fair supply here and a great scarcity in the United States, but the shortage across the line is being supplied not from Canada, but by importations from Great Britain and continental Europe, where the growers are apparently willing to sell at lower prices than the Canadians. European potatoes are of course subject to the same duty as Canadian, yet the Halifax Chronicle and some other equally extreme Liberal organs ask our farmers to believe that their fortunes would have been made had they secured reciprocity. As a matter of fact, as pointed out by the Ottawa Citizen, the price in that city is \$2.50 per bag of 180 pounds, while in Boston it is \$3.75. If the effect of taking off the duty would be to reduce the price to the consumer, which is the free trade theory, the Ottawa and Boston prices would be identical, and the farmers would benefit nothing, even in this time of unusually high prices in the States.—Moncton Times.

The civic elections are going on today.

From the Federal Capital.

The largest deputation of the season waited upon the Premier, (Hon. Frank Cochrane and Hon. Sam Hughes on the 8th, on behalf of good roads in Canada. They urged a general system of main highways with appropriation for country road construction and maintenance. The delegation represented among other interests the good roads association of Ontario, the Ontario motor league, the Quebec Miami international highway association, many boards of trade, including Toronto and several of the municipalities of the province. The Premier in his reply pointed to the fact that good roads were a matter of provincial jurisdiction. The condition of the roads, he knew, were not satisfactory. The parliamentary estimates to be brought down would contain grants to the various provinces, but the money would be for construction and not for maintenance. There would be co-operation with all the provinces, but further than this the details of the scheme had not been worked out.

The movement of Canadians from the country to the cities, and from the east to the west was considered by the Senate on the 8th. Sir Richard Scott's measure to prevent the spread of typhoid was discussed and killed. Senator Choquette introduced a bill to repeal the Canadian naval act. Senator Power moved for a special committee to enquire into and consider the disappointing nature of movements of population in Canada, more especially affecting the rural districts of the older provinces, as shown by the census of 1911. The committee to be composed of the Honorable Messrs. Yeo, Beith, Derbyshire, Casgrain, Tessier, Baird, Taylor, Pope, and the mover. Senator Power said that on the whole the results of the census were satisfactory, but a detailed enumeration disclosed facts that were not so satisfactory. In the older portions of Canada the population had not increased as it should. Results were also disappointing in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario, where the gains were made by the cities, and in the country there was a falling off. Various causes were assigned for this. The matter was an important one, and should be studied. The Senate had time to make the investigation, and therefore he suggested the committee. Sir Richard Cartwright said there was no more important matter than the proper distribution of population. No more useful work could be undertaken than in ascertaining the causes for the losses of population of the fertile parts of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Loughheed said he thought the committee would discover no reasons which were not known. Senator Watson agreed that the great problem that the Government had to solve was to keep people on the land. For some years the tendency in Canada has been to make laws to help manufacturers to build up the cities and grow wealthy. The legislation had made the farmer pay for this, and he was now growing restive and leaving the farm for the city. The Government should legislate to make rural life more attractive and more profitable.

With an attendance equal to that of the earlier meetings apparently undiminished interest, the Forestry association convention, was continued in the Railway committee rooms of the House of Commons on the 8th. The features of the morning session were two

papers, one by Dr. Gifford Pinchot, Washington, of the United States Conservation commission, and one by Mr. E. A. Sterling, forester of the Pennsylvania railroad company. Dr. Pinchot, who spoke first, dealt with "The Ground work of a forest service." If progress was to be made in forest conservation the appointment of men for the work had to be beyond political control, he said. If monopolists sought to control resources it was the duty of the nation to control monopolists. The speaker advocated the reconciliation of the different branches of forest work by sending the men from the office to the forests and letting the forest men have a turn at office work. Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, spoke briefly, congratulating Dr. Pinchot on his address. The work of Forestry, he said, did not come within his portfolio, although it was more closely allied to agriculture than patents and copyright. Mr. Sterling then delivered his paper on "Railroads and Forest Fires." Mr. E. Stewart's paper on "The Aims and Objects of the Canadian Forestry Association" was read at the afternoon session.

The convention concluded on Thursday afternoon. The principal resolution asked from both federal and provincial governments an increased expenditure on forest management in this country, deprecating the fact that less than a cent an acre was now expended on forest lands. The association urged on the federal and provincial governments the necessity for providing a system of examinations to test the qualifications of appointees and of making appointments permanent during good behavior, and that federal government appointments for this purpose should be placed in the hands of the civil service commission. It was resolved to impress upon the government the necessity of maintaining in connection with the forestry branch an experimental laboratory for testing and investigating the physical and mechanical properties of Canadian woods, with a view to extending the possibilities of their use and for other purposes. The association deprecated the practice of exporting in large quantities Christmas trees of spruce and balsam, and recommended legislation to prevent that practice. An executive committee to meet every three months was appointed as follows: The President, the vice-President, Hon. Sydney Fisher, and Messrs. Gordon G. Edwards, R. H. Campbell, C. Y. Chown, and Dr. B. E. Fernow. The association reaffirmed its attitude in favor of the inspection of the public domain and the inclusion in forest reserves of lands unsuited for agriculture, or where the forests are required for the protection of water sheds, and urged on the federal and provincial governments the carrying out of such a policy at the earliest possible date. The treasurer's report showed an expenditure during the year of over \$6,000, and a balance of over \$1,500. The fees from members for the year amounted to over \$2,000. The officers elected were as follows: Honorary Past President—Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Hon. President—Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden. Patron—His Royal Highness the Governor General. President—John Henry, Vancouver. Vice-President—Hon. W. A. Charlton, M. P., Toronto. Territorial Vice-Presidents—Ontario, Hon. Mr. Hearst; Quebec, Hon. Jules Allard; New Brunswick, Hon. J. K. Flemming; Nova Scotia, Hon. George H. Murray; Prince Edward Island, Hon. J. A. Matheson; Manitoba, Hon. R. P. Roblin; Saskatchewan, Hon. E. A. Brown; British Columbia, Hon. W. R. Ross; Yukon, Commissioner Black; McKenzie, D. F. Wilson; Keewatin, Lt. Governor D. C. Cameron; Ungava, the Archbishop of Montreal.

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