

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1921.

THE FARMERS' CONVENTION

Judging from the report of the proceedings at their convention in Fredericton yesterday, the Farmers' party either have as yet not got into their stride, or they don't know just where they are at. Possibly as the business of the convention proceeds, they will settle down into something like order, and decide what they are really going to do. While several speakers disclaimed all idea of the Farmers' party being a political organization, the meeting seemed to have discussed little else than political questions. Until they can agree among themselves as to what it is that they really do want, it is scarcely likely that they will make much headway, either politically or otherwise.

Probably the keynote of the situation was struck by Mr. R. W. E. Burnaby, the president of the United Farmers of Ontario, who told the assembly that the only way in which farmers could hold their own and take care of their own interests was to keep down production. Providing a greater supply than there was demand simply crowded the market and brought down prices. If this is to be the principal aim of the farmer movement, they do not need to go into politics to accomplish it. As to what line the farmers are to take in politics, Mr. Burnaby, we understand, to discuss with them later on in the proceedings. There were nine farmer candidates elected to the Legislature, and they will naturally want to know what they stand for and what they are to do.

Mr. Burnaby's address this evening on this phase of the farmers' activities should be of more than usual interest.

THE "NO POLITICS" ORDER

Unless the Government refuses to accept and act on the findings of the Conciliation Board which sets aside the "no politics" order of Mr. D. B. Hanna, it is difficult to see how that gentleman and his colleagues on the Railway Board can do other than hand in their resignations. If this should happen, it will be a matter of great regret, because their appointment was an earnest attempt to take the Government Railways out of politics altogether. If the Government refuses to sustain Mr. Hanna's order, it brings the railways back into politics again with all the old troubles and abuses that it was beginning to get away from. The present system of managing the Government Railways may not be as perfect as might perhaps be wished, but it certainly is a great improvement upon the system that used to obtain when the railways were controlled directly by the office of the Minister of Railways. If the National Railways are to remain public property, as many people seem to wish them to, they must be controlled by men altogether free from political influences and affiliations, if their management is to be at all satisfactory, and those upon whose shoulders the burden of management is placed have the right to expect that they shall not be subject to outside interference. Public opinion is behind Mr. Hanna so far as regards the "no politics" order at any rate; and it will be a great blow to all attempts at independent management. No private corporation would submit to what the Railway Board was asked to submit to; and there is no reason why the latter should submit either.

THE INCIDENCE OF TARIFFS

If there is one man who is thoroughly conversant with financial conditions in this country, it is Sir Henry Drayton, and he dealt with them pretty trenchantly in the course of his speech at West Peterboro on Saturday in the interests of Mr. R. Deane, the Government candidate in that constituency. Necessarily he had a good deal to say upon the subject of the tariff, and more particularly upon Hon. Mackenzie King's weathercock views with regard to it.

Mr. King is one of those who believe in following the Apostolic teaching of being all things to all men on the off chance that thereby he may make disciples of some. In the West he was, as Sir Henry said, one of the most marvellous free traders and tariff smashers to be found anywhere. In Peterboro he is supporting Mr. Gordon who would protect everything but foodstuffs. During the last session, Mr. King called upon the Government to make immediate tariff reductions and in West Peterboro, the leader of the Opposition assured the electorate that if the Liberals were returned to power, no changes will be made to the tariff without first submitting it to the people at a general election. As a matter of fact, Mr. King and his friends are pledged in the House to substantial reductions in the tariff on

necessaries, which means substantially everything.

All that the Government has in mind in the way of tariff impost is a tax sufficient, and no more, to provide a reasonable degree of protection to Canadian industries. The high protectionist is just as great a menace to the welfare of the community as the free trader. The latter would simply let down the bars altogether and allow foreign made goods to compete freely in the Canadian market against home made goods which cannot be produced at such low cost. The high protectionist, on the other hand would impose such a tax on imported goods as would allow Canadian manufacturers to demand an exorbitant and altogether unwarranted price for their products. Every patriotic Canadian is interested, vitally interested, in maintaining the industrial life of the country in as healthy and prosperous condition as is possible, but there is no need whatever for the public to be bled in order to pile up the profits of these industries unnecessarily. Adequate protection is all that is needed, and few industries are getting more than this at the present time. The tariff is lower today than it ever was in the Laurier regime, and for the people to put Mr. King and his party in power with the chance of making it even lower, would be a national calamity.

PRODUCTION

It has been dined into the ears of the people, not only of this country but all others, persistently and consistently for the past year or more, that the only remedy for the present high cost of living is to be found in greater production. Along comes Mr. Burnaby and advises the farmers to keep production down below actual requirements or at least just level with them. This advice follows along the same line as that given by speakers at the Shoe Manufacturers' Association last week, when the claim was made that one of the reasons for the unsatisfactory conditions in the boot and shoe industry, was over-production. It is abundantly evident that neither the farmers nor the shoemakers intend, if they can help it, that prices shall come down. It must be assumed that Mr. Burnaby, as President of the United Farmers of Ontario, is in full sympathy with their political platform, one of the chief planks of which is a very large measure of free trade. Free trade will have a tendency to lower prices, which apparently Mr. Burnaby does not want. How is he going to reconcile his apparently conflicting attitudes? The Shoemakers are of course avowedly protectionists, and strongly object to anything that will tend to bring prices down. Their attitude is consistent at any rate, even though it is not altogether in the interests of the consuming public.

MANDATES AND INDEMNITIES

Liberal M. P.'s who keep shouting, as in the Peterboro by-election, that the present Parliament has no mandate would in the opinion of the Ottawa Journal be more impressive if the public didn't remember that they are the same gentlemen who last session voted themselves an increase of \$2,000 a year in their indemnities. Unionists, of course, were a party to the grab, but inasmuch as they do not go about crying that this Parliament is "defunct, irresponsible and without a mandate," they do not add inconsistency and hypocrisy to their sin.

The curious thing is that the chief spokesman for a bigger indemnity was the leader of the "no mandate" chorus—Mr. J. H. Burnham—with that other fine apostle of parliamentary responsibility, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, running him a close second.

Premier Foster has expressed his willingness to hold off the opening of the Legislature until the Restigouche election petition can be heard. This is really very good of him. It would be altogether too bad if the two Conservative candidates who were declared elected by the sheriff should take their seats and then find out they had no right to them. The Premier desires to save them from anything so ignominious of course. The fact that if their election should be upset and seats declared vacant, would give him a majority in the House naturally does not weigh with the Premier at all. Personally he would much rather that each county was fully represented, and if it hadn't been that the war needed everybody's attention so badly that an election could not be permitted to distract it, Carleton County would never have gone without one-third of the representation all last session.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Winter Wonder.
 After noting the cars in which young women go about in winter, one is constrained to wonder how that term, "fashion," ever came into existence.—Osgood Herald.

Awaiting Explanation.
 No doubt anti-vaccinationists will have some sort of explanation all ready to account for the facts that smutspor broke out in a Brantford family of fourteen, that the seven who had been vaccinated escaped infection, and that the unvaccinated seven were all taken down with the disease. We don't know what the explanation is, but it is no doubt all ready to produce.—Hamilton Herald.

American Capital in Canada.
 A Canadian branch of an American firm was opened in Watford last week. The Board Chairman of the Windsor district have been practically built up by American capital. Toronto has no fewer than 10 United States branches. There are 55 American branches in Hamilton. Welland claims the largest per capita growth in the Dominion in the 19 years. Or its 18 industries no fewer than 13 pop. present, or originally represented, American capital, and so with the other cities throughout the Dominion. Yet free traders seem entirely indifferent to or ignorant of the value of the Canadian tariff in promoting foreign investment in Canada.—London Free Press.

A BIT OF VERSE

LUMBER.

C. F. S. in Punch.

If I'd got to choose alone
 One of all the freight I've known—
 All my cargoes, live and dead,
 Bacon pigs and pigs of lead,
 Cattle, copra, rice and rails,
 Pilgrims, cowboys, nitrates, rails,
 Lima beans and China tea—
 What do you think my pick would be?

If I'd got to name the best—
 Take just one and leave the rest
 Out of all the ports I've known—
 Coral beaches white as bone,
 All the hot lands and the cold,
 Nights of stars and moon like gold,
 Tropic smells and Spanish wine,
 Whispering palm and singing pine,
 All the isles of all the sea—
 Where do you think I'd want to be?

Loading lumber long ago
 In a ship I used to know.
 With the saw-ports open wide
 In her stomachs loaded side
 And the saws screaming shrill
 Where the Fraser floods and flows
 Green and cold with melting snows,
 And the tow-boats' waiting din,
 As the booms come crawling in,
 Fills the echoing creeks with sound,
 And there's a swiftest all around,
 Deep and soft like drifted snow;
 Nowhere much a man can go,
 Nothing much to see or do,
 Mouldiest burg you ever knew.

But I'd give the years between—
 All I've done and all I've seen,
 All the fooling and the fun,
 All the chances lost and won,
 All the good times and the bad,
 All the memories sweet and sad,
 Far and near, by shore and sea,
 I would give them all to be
 Loading lumber years ago
 With the lady I used to know—
 Loading lumber all day long
 Stacks of scented cedar among—
 Loading lumber at the mill
 Till the sawdust saws were still
 And the rose-red sunset died
 From the mountains and the tide,
 Till the darkness brought the stars
 And the wind's song in the spars
 Of that ship I used to know—
 Loading lumber, long ago.

THE LAUGH LINE

Accommodating.
 Lawyer—I would like more time for my client, your honor.
 Judge—Certainly. I was going to give him five years, but I'll raise it to ten.

The Real Problem.
 "Should women propose?" began Professor Pate.
 "Certainly not," impolitely interrupted J. J. Bitter. "But how are they to be kept from it?"—Kansas City Star.

Paternal Anxiety.
 "Were you the girl's father?" inquired with the official's father.
 "Not exactly. The old man demanded to know if I was prepared to support him in the same style his daughter was accustomed to do."

The Canker in the Rose.
 "What reason have you got for grousing? Didn't you get \$100 for allowing your picture to be put in this paper as having been cured by Pudge's Pills?"
 "Yes I did, but hang it, my relatives are all asking me why I don't go to work now that I'm cured!"—Boston Transcript.

Dangerous Aphorism.
 "Talk is cheap."
 "Ssh! For goodness sake don't advertise it as a bargain while my wife is around."

Their Inability.
 "My gracious, Cousin Waybacker!" exclaimed the city relative. "No wonder you are hungry, after coming at that distance with nothing to eat! Why didn't you have a lunch put up before you started from home?"
 "Phenny wanted to," replied the country relative, "but we couldn't find anything to pack it in. There wasn't a shoe box on the place."—Kansas City Star.

The Wrong Course.
 "Dawdle says that he's had chances enough but they were all poor ones."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Pop was smoking and thinking with his feet up and I was wishing somebody would invent a automatic lesson machine to do my lessons every night, and I said, Say pop, can I have a cent please, pop?

Was on earth can anybody do with a cent with the cost of living as high as it is? said pop.

Well G gosh, pop, I can do lots with a cent, I said, I can buy 2 small size sourballs or one big size one, or 10 jelly beans, or a stick of chewing gum, or one chookit mushmelter, or I can make a bet with Puds Simkins or one of the fellows and if I win I'll have 3 cents, or I can buy a rubber band and make a sling shot and use it till the rubber band breaks.

Anybody that knows that much about a cent certainly awt to have one of his own, said pop. And he took his feet down and reached in his pocket and put his feet back up again and gave me a cent, me saying, Well gosh G, pop, if you think I know a lot to do with a cent you awt to hear some of the things I could do with a nickel, gosh pop you'd be surprised the things I could do with a nickel if I had a nickel. I could go upstairs in a movie in the afternoon, or I could buy 50 jelly beans or a hot dog sandwich or a half of a 10 cent pie or a ice cream cone any flavor, that's some of the things I could do with a nickel, that's of course if I had a nickel.

You present your case with such clarity and yet with such eloquence that I feel it my duty to hand down a decision in your favor even tho it involves the personal sacrifice of taking my feet down again, said pop. And he took them down again and gave me a nickel for the cent and put them back up again, me saying, Well holy smokes pop, you wouldn't hardly believe it if I told you all what I could do with a dime, do you want to hear some of the things?

We'll skip the speech for the defence this time, gave me back the nickel, and I'll exchange it, said pop. With I did, and pop said, I'll exchange it, and was did he do but give me the cent back again, saying, Now in the future please remember that the lowest reach awt has the shortest touch. Meaning if you don't know when to stop you'll soon find out.

"I've noticed that whenever opportunity knocked, Dawdle proceeded to knock the opportunity."—Boston Transcript.

Revenge.
 "I don't believe in revenge."
 "I don't either. But just the same there are a number of men I do business with who have kept me waiting in outer offices for half an hour or more I'd like just once before I die to keep waiting to see me."—Detroit Free Press.

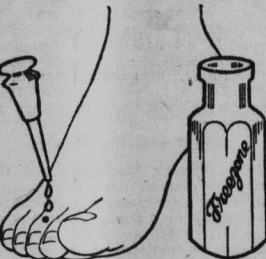
"Why don't you make a lawyer or a doctor of your boy John?"
 "I'd like to," replied Farmer Corn-tassel, "but what are you going to do with a young feller that is so talented he won't be satisfied with anything less than a million dollars a year as a motion picture star?"—Washington Star.

Firefly—"It seems to me you mosquitoes are of very cheap stock."
 Mosquito—"You may think so, but we've got some of the best blood of the country in our veins."—Judge.

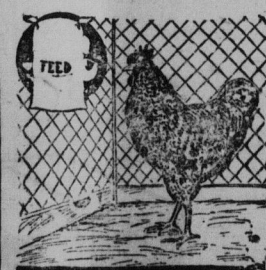
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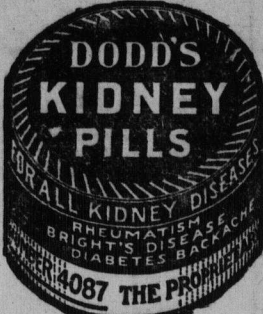


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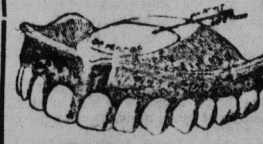
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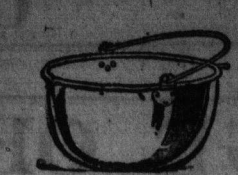
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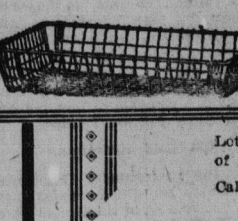
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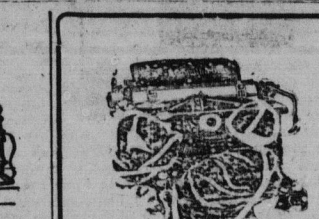
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