

The St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

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A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

FREE TRADE WOULD RUIN DOMINION INDUSTRIES PREMIER MEIGHEN SAYS IN BRILLIANT DEFENCE OF POLICIES

Answers Charge That Government is the Friend of the "Big Interests" by Declaring That Canadian Taxes on Large Incomes Are Largest in the World and Were Placed There by Present Administration.

CANADA CANNOT DEPEND UPON ANY TRADE POLICY ENACTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Raw Materials of Dominion Would be Returned in Finished Products to be Sold at Prices Determined Only by the Greed of Vendors, a Condition the Government Would be Unable to Control.

(Continued from page 1)
country, just in the second election pack, and opposed a candidate who was out, supporting the government, who was perhaps the most prominent farmer in the country. They had, of course, to raise other arguments in that case, but they didn't hesitate to do so.

Membership in House.
"We have in the house more lawyers than farmers—I think 71 by actual count, 43 of the agricultural profession. I do not think there is a legislature in the world today of the standing of the Canadian legislature where the proportion is less than that. I doubt if there is. It is a fact that a very considerable advantage accrues to a man in public life because of legal training. It would be indeed strange if a man were not better qualified because he understood the laws that exist, to interpret those laws in parliament and to seek to improve them. Ordinarily he would be better qualified on that account for what we find in our parliament is in every parliament in the world. I venture to say in the British parliament today, the proportion to those who are lawyers is larger than ours. In the United States undoubtedly it is so, and I believe that every president of that republic, save three, in the 131 years it has existed, has been in that profession. A man is a man, no matter what his calling, who seeks to make an enemy of him because of the mere fact that he follows a certain profession; all that can be said is that he is not fit to discuss public questions before any audience.

Tribute to Late Col. McLeod.
"Now, I am sorry this election is necessary. The member who represented this constituency until the vacancy was a very close and long-standing personal friend of mine. It was indeed a shock to me when I learned of the death of Col. Harry McLeod. We suffer those things in life very often, but seldom have I felt the loss of a friend more than I have of him who through dark days and through light, under all circumstances, stood by my side; who was a friend of this constituency as he was a friend of the government to which I belong, and who at all times was loyal to his friends. A word of sympathy goes from the heart of me at this time to his widow, and I know that that word and that feeling is shared by all, of all classes in this city.

Unrest in World.
"Now, it has generally been conceded, at least it is on the tongue of almost all of us that there is at this time very considerable unrest, much discontent, a great habit of fault-finding and complaint on the part of certain classes—sometimes of labor, sometimes agriculture, sometimes merchants, sometimes other classes; that he is not getting a fair deal from the administration or government, and consequently that the government must answer for that. Now, my first remark is this, you read the papers, you read books, you read dispatches from the world as they come to you every morning. Do you know a country on the face of this globe today where there is no discontent, where we have so little labor trouble, rural trouble, any trouble at all? Where the

evils that have followed the war are less marked than they are in this Dominion? We have unemployment here, it is true. We think it runs up now to about 100,000, likely more, and it is most unfortunate, and everything must be done and every policy must be pursued to reduce that unemployment.

Unemployment Small.
"We always will have some unemployment. We now have more than usual and every effort should be made in parliament and out of it to keep that unemployment down to the lowest possible limit and to get rid of it altogether if we can. Do you know of any country with as little as we have? Is unemployment due to the tariff policy we are pursuing in this country? Well, look across the water. Where is the nation today with the biggest unemployment percentage? Well, if it is not Italy, it is Great Britain, where I am pretty sure there are between two and a half and three millions walking the streets unemployed, and not because of the millions out of work because they can't get it. Now, if we had the same percentage, what would we have? We would have about one-fifth of that, or 500,000. Go to the United States. There we find a country who suffered less from the war than any country. The proportion of unemployed there today is bigger than it is in Canada by about 25 per cent.

Best in Canada.
"Just reason the thing out yourselves. We have better conditions from the point of view of this session's unemployment and the evils that follow the war, than any of the larger nations of the world today. Have you heard anything about the enormous cost of war ships and air ships? I know there are people who scatter themselves through the country and see anything in the world, that they must complain about it. Well, no nation can get on and abandon all defence, if not anywhere else. You have got to have a strong arm somehow to take care of the law-breakers if any are found, but I tell you that the weight of defence, whether it is air defence, naval defence or militia defence, the weight of the whole cost on the people of this Dominion is less than it amounts, if our population is nine million, and it is nearly that, to \$159 a head, the whole three of them put together, and you can't find a country, big, small or in between, that has anything like so small a cost as that. Indeed you can't get it less, unless you throw it away altogether.

Big Interests.
"What else is charged against us? Well, I have heard it said that this government is the creature of what they call 'big interests'; that we do the bidding of what they call high finance, rich people, big men, and I know that is a very insidious thing. How it reaches the ears of those who are not getting along as well as they would like, and perhaps they are worthy; those who try to tell you that all you suffer is because the government is doing the bidding of the rich men, catering to the rich, instead of passing laws to suit you. I know that is insidious and I know more. I know

that just as long as this is a country you will hear that talk against any government that is in power, no matter what it is. Just as long as there is a cheap demagogue in this country that is what he is going to say, and no matter what any government in this world does.

Taxation of Rich.
"I know this government does not deserve that. I say to you that the laws, particularly the taxation laws put on the statute book and enforced to the letter by the present government are the most stringent and exacting against the wealthy people of Canada, than any nation in the world over. Now, in that sense I mean the very richest. Those of moderate wealth do not pay as much as they do in Great Britain, Australia or New Zealand, but they need to be men of very moderate means indeed to be better off. But those of great wealth pay more in this country in every form of taxation, no matter whether you take the income tax, war profits tax or any other form of tax, more than they do in any other nation of the world today, except possibly Germany. A man with a large income, say one, two or three here in this country, that man would save \$150,000 in income tax alone if he went to live in England, and the British people have a debt just about four times as big as ours in proportion to the population.

What They Pay.
"Now, did you know that before? If a man has an income of \$5,000 he pays the same tax here that he would pay in the United States. He pays less here than in England, New Zealand and Australia. If he has an income of \$10,000, he would pay \$700; if \$20,000, he would pay a tax here of \$1,500, or about ten per cent of his income. If he has \$30,000, he would pay nearly \$3,000, or about ten per cent of his income; that is nine per cent, and we are charged with doing the bidding of rich men, or whose income is \$100,000, he would pay \$97,000 or just about one-half of his income, or he would save \$3,000 by going anywhere in the world than here. And we are charged with doing the bidding of rich men, or whose income is \$1,000,000, he would pay \$999,545 or virtually seven-tenths of all, and besides all that he has to pay his income tax on the province if he has one; he has to pay the same tax to his municipality and the other taxes as well. And that is the burden upon wealth, not one dollar of which is collected before the government of 1911 came into office.

Farmers Do Nothing.
"Now the farmer party has a government. They talk about putting the burden on the rich. They have not touched the income tax. They talk about economy. I think they have a debt of from thirty to forty millions more than they did when they went into power two or three years ago.

But I am here to talk dominion, and I propose now to discuss the programme of the party who oppose the something about this. I know came from the portion of this dominion where this party was born—Western Canada. I know why it was born. I watched its growth from year to year, and in every campaign I have fought in this country I have had to oppose this, not only in the recent years, but come out here, but in the last fifteen years. Out in Western Canada where only less than half are Canadian or British born, they want free trade. They all don't, particularly in the towns and cities they are rather rare in that great country.

Don't Care About Factories.
"They don't care a whit what becomes of industries that depend upon the tariff, not a whit. I would like some of you to go and talk on that line. I want to ask you, and I will follow this very closely and carefully for perhaps half an hour, if you are ready to attend. I want to ask you whether you want by your vote next Saturday to tell the dominion that the City of Fredericton wants the Farmer Parliament in power.

Their Programme.
"What is their programme? Well, I have it here, if anyone wants to read it. He read the paragraphs relating to reciprocity and demobilization, and then continued: 'Place all foodstuffs on the free list.' That is to be done at once. Then, next, agricultural implements, farm and household furniture, vehicles, etc. I may tell you that gasoline they call for, to be free, is free already; that lumber is free, all except dressed lumber, and some other things are free.

For fear of Spoiling the Side-splitting Show



They don't seem to know that...

Free Foods.
I am going to enquire whether you want by your vote to allow this. In the first place, putting all foodstuffs on the free list, and you can't keep other things on the tariff list at all, because the makers of these foodstuffs could not possibly live in this country if their goods are to be free, and other goods not.

Must Protect Canada.
"What we say is this; that it is not in the interests of this dominion to put ourselves in a position where we are helpless in the hands of the United States Legislature. We would like to sell them all the goods we can, but we are not going to adopt a tariff policy that puts us at their mercy whenever they decide to put their tariff barriers up. I was explaining to you that there was considerable reason for that. Just run your mind back over the last few years. About ten years ago they were anxious for reciprocity in natural products, and they thought the time had come for that. They could get our natural products, get up finished articles and sell them and make a profit on them. They felt they had everything to gain by taking the barriers down, and we had everything to lose. Fortunately, we rejected that proposal.

The Wheat Case.
"What on the free list. This spread like fire through the Western Provinces. I was a member of the government that put this on the free list. What has happened? They put wheat and flour on the free list—then the war came on in a very short time. We could not possibly allow this during that time, but that time was over last fall. Free wheat and flour went into effect about last September and it just took, I think, five months or four, until the Fordney-Young bill was introduced to put 35 cents duty on wheat and 25 cents on flour, and the United States proposes to put the bill through and virtually drive this wheat and flour out of the United States. That is as long as you can depend on them. What is the result?

Hunting Another Market.
"We now have to find another market for our flour, and deliver right to the ultimate consumer. Fortunately, it didn't last long for us. The longer it lasts the worse. Now we have to find our own market and get our wheat to the man who needs the wheat. We will treat with the consumer public direct. Don't you think

Raw Material Vanishes.
"Your raw material will go there to finish goods. Perhaps you will have some advantages while they keep the barriers down, and then if they put the barriers up, what is

Cannot Depend On It.
The presidential election takes place in four years, and up goes the tariff. We are a smaller nation than they, with eight or nine million, as compared with the 110 million over there. Their industrial plants are far larger than ours and are bound to be larger. If we could depend upon free trade forever, with them and they were ready to talk that, then there would be an argument for it; but if you can't depend upon it, except until the next presidential election, is it not better for us to see that our people here have the same advantages here in our markets than their people? Just take your barriers down at the behest of the United States and your trade will adjust itself accordingly.

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Can anybody think of folly enough to do that? Farm Implements. Then they want free implements. They use farm implements all through this country and they have a great cry for free implements. Well, if there is any cause of complaint, if there is any with regard to implements it certainly should be rectified. I presume you people who have heard this cry imagine that we have a right barrier up against the entry of United States farming implements. A good many of them are free. Those that are free sell high in proportion to those that are not.

(Continued on page 5)

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