

The St. John Standard

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THE BUDGET AND MR. FIELDING'S AMENDMENT.

Mr. Fielding's amendment to the Budget resolution is ill-judged, ill-timed, and, in the light of some of his own remarks, ill-considered also. He knows that the estimated revenue will fall a long way short of the amount that will be required to meet the expenditure, and he knows—no one better—that there are only two ways in which the deficiency can be made up, either by further borrowing, or by additional taxation. Yet he condemns both these methods, and, to make matters worse, wants to reduce the already inadequate revenue by a reduction in the tariff. He admits that to float any further loan would only tie up more money by taking it out of ordinary trade channels, and he says that to add to the taxes will only increase the cost of living. How, then, would he meet the situation?

One would not, of course, expect constructive criticism from a political opponent, but at the same time one would look for common sense criticism from a man in Mr. Fielding's position. He may not be satisfied with the Budget proposals, but what has he better to suggest? He offers no other course for the Finance Minister to adopt to rid the needed funds; his only suggestion would make matters even worse than they are. He advises the Government to strive to get the country's finances back to a normal basis, and in the same breath he wants them to throw away a considerable portion of their revenue, an increase in which is the first essential to getting them back to normal. One would hesitate to use the word childish to any criticism made by an ex-Finance Minister of Mr. Fielding's experience, but there is no other word than that that properly describes them.

Mr. Fielding condemned alike a policy of absolute protection and also one of wide-open free trade. So does every other sane man; but that is not the view of the majority of the men who sit on the same side of the House as Mr. Fielding. They ask for free trade out and out, with no exceptions. What the country wants is adequate protection for such industries as need it; such protection as will build up the growing industries until they are sufficiently established to do without it; nothing more. This can hardly be got by taking off the duties that now protect them.

The Government is faced with the task of finding a million dollars to make up the estimated deficiency in the ordinary revenue, and they have announced the means they propose to adopt to accomplish this task. The general consensus of opinion throughout the country seems to be that the plan proposed is about as good a one as possible under all existing conditions. Whether it will work out as anticipated, time alone will show. It may be that all the new taxes will not bring in as much as is anticipated; in fact it is not unlikely that the tax on luxuries will cause a falling off in the amount of buying that will be done. If this should be the result, a great deal of extravagance which has been so rife for some time past will be checked, and people will begin to economize a little. Any abstention from purchasing the more costly articles, whether luxuries or necessities, will probably result also in a reduction in the present high prices of these articles, for merchants cannot afford to continue stocked up with goods they cannot sell. The bulk of the new taxes will fall on the shoulders of the better-to-do classes, which is the place where the burden should properly rest.

GETTING FROM UNDER.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of merchants and storekeepers in all parts of Canada, as indicated by the advertisements in the newspapers which are published in the different sections, to hold price-reduction sales. The only inference to be drawn from this seemingly widespread policy is that these men have come to the conclusion that it is time to unload some of their stocks in view of a considerable fall in prices that must come sooner or later. There are indications—which are plain enough to those who take the trouble to look for them—that these prices have about reached the limit that the ordinary man can afford to pay. Circumstances during the past three or four years have made money more plentiful than usual, and more easily earned. The result has been a regular orgy of extravagance, which got worse as time went on. The majority of those who made money spent it as fast as they got it; they bought things that under ordinary circumstances they would never have dreamt of buying, irrespective of cost or need for them. The more money they got the more they were prepared to throw away to gratify their desires, and those whose business it was to supply the means of gratification were not slow to take notice of and profit by the situation as it presented itself. It is manifest, however, that this condition of affairs cannot, and could not, continue indefinitely. The time

must come when a halt must be called, and that time seems to be here now. A realization of the folly of the line of conduct that they have been pursuing is apparently coming over people, together with the further realization that money is becoming rather more difficult to get than it was. The result is that they are curtailing their expenditures, some because they see the wisdom of doing so, and others because they cannot help themselves. In either event it means that merchants will sell fewer goods, and to get rid of their stocks they must reduce their prices, or find themselves left with stocks that there is no call for. More especially is this the case in the clothing and furnishing trades, in which fashion plays such an important part. As long as fashions change almost overnight, certain classes of goods cannot well be kept in stock for very long or they become useless, and must be sold for whatever they will bring. When these things come in now, outrageous prices are demanded for them because they are "the very latest." When the novelty is worn off, they are a drug on the market. In no case has greater extravagance been shown than in the matter of this fashionable attire, and it is as well that there should be a change.

It cannot be denied that cost of production has increased; the increase in the wage scale, the shorter hours of work, and the difficulty in getting a ready supply of raw materials have all combined to raise prices. But these conditions are not wholly responsible for the high prices asked; the knowledge that people had money to spend freely has led to the asking of prices that were more excessive than circumstances really warranted—just plain profiteering in fact. This has got to stop now, and all those reduction sales are evidence that this fact is now realized.

A TARIFF INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In this country the fostering of home industry and the raising of revenue must continue to be the paramount objects of tariff policy. In the United States general reductions of the tariff have been advocated, and sometimes carried out because the revenues were redundant. In other cases the prevailing argument for reducing the tariff there was that a necessary increase in the revenue would thereby be brought about. More than one of the downward revisions of the Canadian tariff have been for the avowed purpose of getting nearer to free trade and dealing a blow to protection. But, as the *Mail* and *Empire* says, never before was it so necessary as it is now that the Canadian tariff should be efficient for protection, and at the same time expanding to the revenue. It may be that on a few articles the duties could be reduced with benefit to Canadian production, and it is certain that on a number of articles of the luxury class the duties could be increased with advantage to the revenue or to both.

A general revision of the tariff is promised in the near future by Sir Henry Drayton, but it should not be attempted without ample information that comes up to date. A committee of the Cabinet such as Sir Thomas White proposed to charge with the work of making a scrutiny into the tariff could collect data for a revision, but members of the Cabinet have enough to do as it is. A tour of the country for the purpose of giving hearings at the various industrial and trading centres would take a long time. Even when the round of the producing and trading districts had been made, the information gathered would be far from exhaustive. Many of the relevant facts would have to be sought by other means. For a scientific revision of the tariff a great deal of knowledge is necessary, and we see no other way for the Government to acquire that knowledge than through the agency of a Tariff Board made up of experts fit to be trusted with the work of keeping the Government fully advised of the courses of events affecting tariff matters. Every day it becomes more important that the Government be kept in touch with conditions in countries that export largely to Canada, for particularly in the United States, these conditions seem more conducive than over to the movement of merchandise hither. Not long ago the United States was contributing 65 per cent. of the goods we imported. Now it is sending us 75 per cent. of our total imports. A Tariff Board would be of invaluable service to the country as an intelligence branch of the Government, reporting as to the exact cost of producing, the current market prices, etc., of United States goods that are entered for consumption here. New processes or other changing conditions could thus be kept track of. The work of a Tariff Board would never be brought to an end, because trade never stands still and the conditions of trade and production are constantly undergoing change. A Tariff Board would be of great use to the Minister of Customs and to the Finance Minister, who would often find it convenient to consult it.

The Salvation Army campaign for funds carries a peculiar appeal to the general public. It has always been recognized that this organization conducts a work distinctly its own, but it was during the war that the public appreciation of the Salvation Army rose to impressive heights. The splendid work of the Army, done without advertising or self-praise, but most effectively, bred everywhere an admiration for the organization that will now be reflected in the contributions made to assist the plans for extending the usefulness of the Army. The plans of the campaign contemplate the expenditure of a large proportion of the funds raised to the localities in which they are raised and all in furtherance of the efforts of the organization to assist the needy and elevate mankind.

Dr. Michael Clark, M. P. for Red Deer, told the members in the House of Commons the other day that he had never heard that we went to either the New or the Old Testament for instruction on the electoral franchise; but he wouldn't mind knowing how elections were conducted in Judea. He has little fancy to take his electoral inspiration from Edmund Burke.

In Jackson, Wyoming, where the women candidates defeated the males, all the public offices are to be filled by them. If this sort of thing spreads because of woman suffrage, the fair sex will be the sufferers in the long run. If the women get all the jobs they will have to support the men and the children. There is no other way out of it.

"Pussfoot" Johnson says that most of the Sinn Féiners are total abstainers, but just how strong a recommendation this is for prohibition is doubtful.

However, we trust that President Wilson was satisfied with the way in which Marshal Foch conducted the operations on land.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Idle Landholding.
Land and Liberty (British Monthly).
 "There ought to be a living for every Scot in Scotland who wanted work."—The Duke of Atholl at Perth.
 There ought to be, and there will be, when the duke and other territorial landlords pay rent to the state for the land they hold.

Overproduction.
 Generally speaking there is no such thing as overproduction. I suppose the best we have ever done is to produce enough wealth in any one year to have 10 per cent. left over. Have you enough goods? Has anybody, except an infinitesimally small proportion of the population? The world as a whole has never been on Edge Street. Why do we export goods—I mean, in the long run? Simply to trade some of our wealth for another kind that the other fellow has. Commerce is only barter.—Frank A. Vanderlip, banker and manufacturer.

The Sun Looked Over the Highest Hills.
 The sun looked over the highest hills, and down in the vales looked he, and sprang up blithe all things of life, and put forth their energy; the flowers crept out their tender cups, and rivers and rills they shimmered along, and offered their dewy fee; their winding ways to the sea; and the little birds their morning song.
 Trilled forth from every tree, on a Whit-Sunday morning in the month of May.
 —John Orchard.

The Hawthorn Lane Was Full of Flower.
 The Hawthorn lane was full of flower; across the hedge, the apple-trees sent down with every guest of breeze, a light, loose-petalled blossom-shower.
 The wide green edges of the lane were lined with kedlock-flowers, and white Archangel just, the bee's delight, sprang just for the morning's rain.
 The scent of May was heavy-sweet; the noon poured down upon the land, the nightingales on either hand called, and were silent in the heat.
 —A. Mary F. Robinson.

Light Wanted, Not Heat.
 (Hamilton Spectator.)
 A significant thing occurred at the meeting in Princess theatre on Sunday afternoon, which was addressed by Mrs. Joseph Knight, "wife of the eastern organizer of the One Big Union," and Alderman Heaps, the only one acquitted of the eight defendants in the famous Winnipeg conspiracy. A fairly full attendance greeted the speakers, and all went well, apparently, till Mrs. Knight began to attack the churches "as the bulwarks of capitalism"—then many of the audience walked out.

THE LAUGH LINE

Amenities of Trolley Travel.
 "Pardon me for bumping into you so often," said the pellicle strapper hanger. "It's the swaying of the car."
 "Don't mention it," said his equally polite fellow strap-hanger. "But pardon me for turning my left side toward your elbow, I was recently operated on for appendicitis."—*Birmingham Age-Herald.*

And It Did.
 "Buz—I hear your friend, the naturalist, has met with an accident. What was it?" "Ox."—Someone gave him a tiger cub and said it was so tame it would eat off his hand, and it did.—*Dallas News.*

It Is Time.
 "Happily to me the color of the eyes are to be very fashionable this year," according to a trade jour-

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was sitting on the front steps this afternoon, and pop came up, saying, Well, Benny, was new? and I said, His Nones day off and ma's making supper and she burned the stewed tomatoes because I smelt them on my way out.

O well accidents will happen in the best regulated families, lets just eat the tomatoes and pretend we dont notice anything unusual about them, sed pop. Cant I pretend I dont notice anything unusual about them without eating them? I sed, and pop sed, Shertony not, be a spout.

And wen me called us for supper she gave me and pop tomatoes in 2 savaners without taking any herself and without giving my sister Gladys any on account of stewed tomatoes being one of the things Gladys dont eat, and pop ate a spoonful of his and made his face look as if he chawt he was going to heaven or some place, saying, Mother, these tomatoes are perfectly delicious.

Wat, do you mean it? sed ma, and pop sed, Wy shudent I mean it? and ma sed, O, no reason, of course. And I ate a spoon-

ful of mine saying, O, ma, these stewed tomatoes are grate, I've ate stewed tomatoes before, but not like this. Being glad I caver had, and ma took a spoonful on her own plate and tasted them, and pop sed, Wat are you making such a face about, mother?

Did I make a face, sed ma, and pop sed, Wy made one of the worst faces I've seen this year, wy dont you finish your tomatoes, mother?

Willum Potts, you know those tomatoes are berry, you must think im ewdilly dents, sed ma.

High pop picked up his sawer and smelt it, saying, Well, so they are. And I picked up mine and smelted it, saying, Darn if they aint.

Wich they certeny was.

This should be good news to those street our travellers who object to having green haxpans stuck in their blue eyes.—*Punch.*

Excessive politeness seldom has anything in common with the truth. Once in a while a man achieves fame in this world without making any unnecessary fuss about it.

Liked That.
 Sheet "Don't you think our minister preaches polished sermons?"
 He: "Yes, I must say I like the finish of them."

None Whatever.
 She: "Women may gossip sometimes, but they have better control of their tongues than men have."
 He: "You are right. Men have no control whatever of women's tongues."

Beneficial Reading.
 "What would you suggest for our literary club to read?" asked Mrs. Flubdub.
 "A good cook book," responded her brutal husband.—*Kansas City Journal.*

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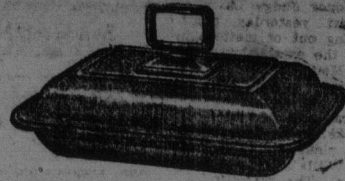
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CHANCERY COURT CASE DISMISSED

Before His Honor Judge Chandler in Chancery Court yesterday morning a case arising out of matters in connection with the establishment of the Protestant Memorial Home was dismissed as it was shown to the court to have been settled at the sessions of the Grand Orange Lodge in Woodstock a few weeks ago. George A. Blair was the plaintiff and L. A. Palmer, Robert Willis and N. J. Morrison, defendants. The plaintiff asked for a declaration by the court that the sum of \$1,000 voted to the St. John Protestant Orphan Home by a committee of which he alleged the defendants were members was illegal and ultra vires as he alleged it had been taken from a memorial fund; that such payment was a misapplication of and an illegal diversion of said money and trust fund; and for an injunction restraining the defendants from voting any more money from such trust memorial fund. He was represented by J. F. H. Teed while Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., appeared for the defence.

The defence contended that the plaintiff was not entitled to bring a case because of a want of interest in the subject matter in question and as he was not a member of the Grand Orange Lodge, and if a member he had not applied to said grand lodge to commence proceedings. The defence urged that the action complained of was not illegal or ultra vires of the

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