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A SEER

(Tuesday's Daily) The New Westminster Columbian argues that the new tariff is not a step toward the abolition of protection and in support of it says the estimates for the coming year amount to one hundred million. As to its argument the Columbian is respectfully referred to Hon. George E. Foster and the Manufacturers' Association; as to its illustration it is referred to the blue book, which gives the figures for expenditure on current account as 45 millions; as to how the illustration affects the argument the Columbian can be referred only to itself.

JAPAN COMES TO THE FRONT

(Tuesday's Daily) A bill has been introduced in the senate to sanction the application of the British-Japanese commercial treaty to Canada. The question of the treaty is another step in the settlement of trade relations between the Dominion and the eastern empire in which Western Canada hopes to find a large and profitable market for its products. The time is opportune for the California educational question has created an impression in the mind of the Japanese which should tell strongly on Canada in her rivalry with the Western States for the Japanese flour market.

THE OTHER SIDE

(Tuesday's Daily) Secretary Ryan of the Japanese consulate at San Francisco, has given out a letter in regard to the question which the Japanese Association of America, sent to President Roosevelt by Secretary Motono. It deals at length with the details of the controversy, and specifies briefly the Japanese grievances as follows: "The Japanese, believing they have been unjustly discriminated against in regard to education and rights, are anxious to see their children, 'daughters incidental upon their at-tending said Oriental schools, have been discriminated against in regard to education and unless the order be rescinded or other relief had, the Japanese children of San Francisco, without fault on their part, will be discriminated against in the schools." This is a view of the problem to which the Californian authorities do not appear to have given sufficient attention. It is the heart of the whole question, however, for if the presence of the Japanese generally is considered undesirable the presence of the uneducated Japanese is surely more so, and least desirable of all, that the Japanese children living in the state should be debilitated the privileges of becoming educated. That the Japanese parents prefer sending their children to the public rather than the Oriental schools is the best testimony they can give of their willingness to free their children from objectionable characteristics and fit them for intelligent citizenship in the land of their adoption.

THE ESTIMATES

(Tuesday's Daily) Toronto Mail and Empire: "The Federal estimates just brought down by Finance Minister Plaiding, propose an expenditure of \$106,639,519 for the year 1907-8, which begins on April 1." And having paid this difference to the blue book the Mail starts in to manufacture a financial policy for the Government on its own account and goes serenely on piling up supplementary estimates and further supplementaries until it has worked the figures up 20 million or so higher and then begins to analyse and divide and multiply and add till it figures out toward the close of a column that the expenditure will amount to something like \$88 for every family of five in the country.

There are some other figures in the published "estimates" which are not recorded by the Mail. Owing to the change in the fiscal year the "estimates" include a tabulated list of the sums provided for the nine months ending with March 31st next, and the "estimates" proper, or the amount considered necessary for the twelve months from April 1st, 1907, to April 1st, 1908. The total amount granted for the nine months ending with March was 72 million and that asked for the ensuing twelve months 33 millions. Of the former sum 15 millions was a careful expenditure and the latter sum 33 millions comes under the same head. The total expenditure for the consolidated fund for current expense is for the nine months, 54 millions, for the next fiscal year, 45 millions. As compared with the previous nine months, therefore, there is a decrease in the amount required for running expenses of the country for running expenses of 9 million dollars, or a retrenchment at the rate of 12 millions per year.

The increase in the estimates is occasioned therefore not by an increase in the ordinary expenses of carrying on the business of the country but by the fact that it is necessary to invest more money in permanent improvements. A capital expenditure by a government is of the same nature as an expenditure by a farmer for more machinery or stock, or an outlay by a manufacturer for a new factory or an addition to his plant. Such expenditures are not calculated by the farmer or manufacturer as current expenses of the particular year in which they are made, but as permanent improvements of value should be distributed over the operations of all years in which such benefits are received. In government business such investments are known as "capital" expenditures. In making such expenditures for permanent improvements in the business of an individual there are only two questions considered: are they wise and if so can he afford them? If they are good investments and if he can afford them then the greater the investments the better; and similarly in the business of government, if an expenditure will further fulfill the purposes of good government and if it is such that the country can bear the expense, then the greater the capital expenditure the greater the benefit which the country will receive from making the investment. The time of the capital expenditure is of no consequence whatever provided the end gained be a desirable one and the country can afford to make the expenditure. If the opponents of the Government would condemn the expenditures on capital account they must either condemn the expenditures as useless in themselves or prove that the country cannot afford to bear them.

More than this, the private business man makes his capital expenditures in time of prosperity rather than in depression. When his business is prosperous his credit is good and the expenditure if made on credit is at a lower rate of interest. Canada is now in the flood tide of prosperity, credit is good and the funds necessary for making permanent improvements to the various public services can be more easily secured than when the country is struggling through a period of commercial depression with depleted credit and industrial revenues. A more favorable time to undertake capital expenditures could scarcely be conceived and the Finance Minister has displayed a usual application of business acumen in seizing the opportunity. Till the Opposition can prove the Canada is not prospering they will make no headway in proving that the present is not the proper time for betterment of our railways and canals, the extension of public works and the better equipment of the militia.

As for the current expenditure, that proposed for the coming year is 45 million dollars. According to the Mail the expenditure for 1903 was 41 millions. And there is the difference, whereas the country in 1903 felt very keenly the expenditure of 41 millions the country in 1907-8 will meet the expenditure without appreciable pressure on any class of the people. The former sum was exacted from a people struggling desperately in the throes of national hard times; the latter will be the contribution of a people sharing in the general prosperity of national "good times."

ANOTHER CURVE

(Wednesday's Daily) Even the Edmonton Journal should be found approving the Compulsory Arbitration measure. Yesterday it informed us that "The experience of other countries, where compulsory arbitration has been adopted with striking success is pooh-poohed and sneered out of court" by the Government. And added, "The Government can do nothing and prefers not to be able to do anything." Yet on another page of the same issue, it published the despatch outlining Mr. Lemieux's bill providing the very legislation it represented the Government as "pooh-poohing." The Journal has struck another curve.

TARIFFS AND REVENUE

(Wednesday's Daily) A conservative contemporary argues that large "estimates" for the coming year prove the continuance of the protection principle in the tariff. This is peculiar logic. If the expenditure is large so must the revenue be large to meet this expenditure. Is it the tendency or purpose of "protection" to produce a large revenue? According to its advocates the purpose of such policy is to exclude foreign-made goods from whose importation we now collect duty, and their ideal is a condition in which there would be no revenue from the tariff because there would be no foreign goods imported on which to collect

tariff. Canada's experience under high and low tariff proves that a high tariff produces little revenue and low tariff a large revenue. If this Mr. Fielding feels justified in undertaking larger expenditures from the prospective revenues of the year it is because of his assurance that under the lower tariff the volume of the revenue will be still further increased. Large expenditures under a high protective tariff would lead either to bankruptcy or direct taxation, or both.

THE OPPOSITION ON TRIAL

(Wednesday's Daily) If the Opposition were sincere in their professed anxiety that the Dominion Government take such action as will prevent hardship being inflicted on the public by strikes and lockouts tying up coal mines and other enterprises in which the public are dependent for life necessities, Mr. Lemieux's bill for the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes should receive the unanimous endorsement of Parliament. The bill requires that all such disputes shall be submitted to a board of arbitration comprising representatives from the disputing parties and the Government. In the event of the parties failing to comply by appointing their representatives the Minister of Labor is empowered to appoint the members of the Board and proceed with the investigation.

Of more importance still to the general public is the provision restraining both employers and employees from preventing or retarding the operation of such enterprise while the arbitration proceedings are in progress. This is the direct and vital concern of the public in labor disputes and was the real public interest in the Lethbridge coal strike, which was the immediate cause of the legislation. In that as in other disputes between employers and employees, the interest of the public was so much in the cause of the dispute as in its consequence. In the matter of dispute the public may have a sympathetic interest in the cause of one party or the other, but in the results of the dispute the public has a very real and personal interest in the cause of the public. Probably few of the people in Saskatchewan know or care particularly why the Lethbridge miners "struck" or why their demands were refused but the consequences of the strike are very clearly understood and very seriously felt.

The interest of the public is not in the fact that the Lethbridge miners stopped work, but in the fact that in stopping work they helped to deprive a large section of the public of a fuel supply and that in the season when the supply of such supply means hardship and suffering. And it is of less consequence to the public how or why strikes are settled than that until they are settled neither party in the dispute shall be permitted to prevent the production of a public necessity. This is the phase of the case covered by the "restraining clause" in the new Arbitration Act. It is similar to the legislation adopted in New Zealand some years ago and which has worked to the general satisfaction alike of the employers, the employees and the public.

If the opposition in the House and out of it have been sincere in urging the Government to take action to safeguard this public interest in labor disputes they should be found cordially supporting the measure introduced by the Minister of Labor. An Ottawa despatch of Dec. 13th says: "Hon. R. L. Borden gave notice yesterday of a resolution declaring that 'more effective legislation should be made for the prevention and settlement of disputes between employers and workmen, to the end that 'strikes and lockouts, sometimes resulting in loss of life, and always entailing privation and suffering, may be prevented.'" Mr. Borden should therefore be found among the supporters of the bill, the more so that the Government did not delay matters by turning the problem over to a committee as he proposed.

An Ottawa correspondent of the Calgary Herald informs us that: "Mr. Heron (Alberta) presented his resolution setting forth that the coal lands owned by Canada should only be alienated under such conditions 'and subject to control and regulations as will provide for an immediate supply of coal adequate at all times to the requirements of the people, and at a reasonable price to the consumer, and that in respect of coal lands already alienated provisions should be made for such control and regulation, in case of emergencies, as will in future prevent loss and suffering to the people of the western provinces through lack of fuel supply.'" Mr. Heron's resolution is a very wise one, and therefore, if he value consistency will endorse the regulations guaranteeing "to prevent loss and suffering to the people of the western provinces through lack of fuel supply."

Mr. Lemieux's bill is designed to safeguard the public from hardships similar to that caused by the Lethbridge strike and to do so in the manner advocated by the leader of the Opposition. It is up to the Opposition to vindicate the sincerity of their demands by endorsing the measure, or by opposing it, to admit that the demands originated in party in-

terest rather than public concern and that for the sake of party interest they are prepared to sacrifice the public welfare.

CANNED FOOD INSPECTION

The establishment of a system of inspection of Canadian canned food products is a step in the right direction—a step which promises to receive endorsement from the packers and which will assuredly receive commendation from the consumers. It is gratifying to Canadians to know that the inspection of Canadian canneries revealed a very satisfactory state of affairs generally. The establishment of the inspection arrangement is a safeguard rather than a corrective. As such it will guarantee to the consumer at home and abroad the sanitary conditions under which our food products will be prepared. This guarantee will be welcomed by the packers who value a permanently profitable place in the markets of the world to the opportunity to make temporary gains by means which must prove disastrous in the long run.

AT SEA

The Journal is having a time of its own trying to figure out the political consequences of a municipal election which was in no manner or degree waged on political issues or determined by party affiliation. One day we are told that the "dreaming moral" of the election was the defeat of the "machine," what or whoever may be supposed to have been designated thereby; a few days later we are informed that the election manifested a number of Conservatives; and an issue or later are assured that Liberalism was strengthened by reason of Liberals having voted entirely regardless of the political complexion of the candidates. To help matters out Mr. Griesbach tells the Journal that he is under no obligations to it and the public that he is not responsible for it; while the bewildered organ itself confesses that its partisan utterances are not the views of the local Conservative party. If this confusion becomes much worse confounded the Journal may finally blunder into the admission that the municipal elections were fought out on purely municipal grounds; that the result is in no manner or degree a reflection of public opinion on political issues and can, with no pretence at honesty be distorted to political ends. If it does so, however, the admission will be purely an accidental outcropping of the truth.

CANADA'S FINANCES

In introducing the new tariff schedule the Minister of Finance reviewed the financial condition of the Dominion and outlined the prospect for the coming year. The following paragraphs are from the Hansard report of his speech: "The fiscal year 1906-6 which closed on the 30th June last and for which the public accounts have just been laid before the House, may be regarded as a year of financial prosperity as well as a year of general prosperity. The estimated revenue for the year was \$79,000,000. The actual revenue was \$80,139,360.07. There was thus an excess in the revenue over the estimate of \$1,139,360.07.

"On the expenditure side, chargeable to consolidated accounts, the estimate was \$66,500,000. The expenditure was \$67,240,640.95. "Thus we had an increase of expenditure of \$740,640.95, but we had an increase of revenue of \$1,139,360.07, so that the net result of the year's operations, as between revenue and expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund was that, whereas I had estimated a surplus of \$12,600,000, the actual surplus was \$12,869,719.12."

The revenue shows a remarkable expansion, being \$3,956,557.40 in excess of the revenue for the year 1905, or an increase of 12-1-2 per cent, the expenses exceeded that of 1905 by \$3,820,088, or a little over 6 per cent. We increased our expenditure in that year—consolidating with the items chargeable to consolidated fund—to the extent of 6 per cent, but we increased our revenue to the extent of 12-1-2 per cent. "There have been only two surpluses larger than that which I have mentioned, namely, in 1903 and 1904. The total net surplus in the ten years completed amounts to \$77,198,884.67. During that period there has been but one deficit and that was in 1897 and it amounted to \$619,000.

"When we turn to the comparative statement of the receipts for 1904 and 1905 we have the gratifying fact that in every department there was an increase in revenue." The financial statement as of the Intercolonial railway has too often in the past not been a favorable one, and so we should be glad to take notice of the more favorable conditions presented by the Intercolonial

railway returns last year. For the fiscal year, 1905-6, the revenue of the Intercolonial railway was \$7,643,829.90, and the working expenses, \$7,581,914.36, so that the Intercolonial railway for that year shows a surplus over its working expenses of \$61,915.54.

The other branch of the government railways, the Prince Edward Island railway, is not usually self-sustaining and hitherto we have hardly felt at liberty to hope it would be so. However, there is an improvement in the Prince Edward Island railway, for whereas in the fiscal year, 1904-5, there was a deficit of \$181,375.19, the deficit on the Prince Edward Island railway last year (1906) was only \$36,382.50. There is therefore a very decided surplus in the case of the Intercolonial railway, and a very material reduction of the deficit in the case of the Prince Edward Island railway, a statement which must be most gratifying to my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Emmerson). The following table shows the receipts and expenditures for the past year of the Intercolonial railway, and the Prince Edward Island railway:

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY, 1905-06. Revenue... \$7,643,829.90 Working expenses... 7,581,914.36 Surplus... 61,915.54

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY, 1905-06. Revenue... \$257,270.57 Working expenses... 294,253.16 Deficit... \$36,982.59

Capital expenditure of the last fiscal year, that is, the sums apart from ordinary charges on consolidated fund, amounted to \$16,037,000.77, a little over half a million in excess of the like expenditure in the previous year. This outlay was made up of the following services:— Railways (including Transcontinental, \$1,841,269.55)... \$6,102,565.74 Canals... 1,562,121.21 Dominion Lands... 569,780.01 Public Works... 2,359,928.59 Militia... 1,269,875.65 \$11,913,871.11

To which we have to add the following special expenditures:— Railway subsidies... \$1,637,574.37 Bounties... 2,400,771.29 Other charges... 84,784.00 \$4,123,129.66 Total... \$16,037,000.77

Out of the abundance of our revenues we were able to provide for almost this entire expenditure. We have provided for the ordinary expenditure and for the capital expenditure entirely, except as respects the sum of \$818,000. My estimate was that we might add to the net debt of Canada in the year, \$800,000. The actual addition to the debt is \$818,000.

Mr. Fielding—But you hoped to have no addition. Mr. Fielding—Well, we do not always realize our hopes. My hon. friend would have been very fortunate if he had realized as many as I have. Turning now to the fiscal period of 1906-7, that is to say, the period of nine months upon which we have entered, it is perhaps difficult at this early date to make a very accurate estimate of the out-turn of the business of the nine months' period which began on the first of July last. Our revenues have been very generous. Up to the 30th of November we have received \$53,524,000, being an increase of \$4,289,405 over the corresponding period of 1905-6. Up to the 31st March next, which will be the end of what I may call the fiscal period of nine months, I estimate that we may count on a revenue of \$65,000,000. If business prospers during the next few months as it has been prospering of late, we may hope to do even better than that—and I trust that my hon. friend will not attach too much importance to that word "hope;" but to be on the safe side, I put the estimated revenue at \$65,000,000. The expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund is somewhat difficult to estimate, as we have no fiscal period of nine months in the preceding year with which to make comparisons. I am informed, however, that the expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund for the nine months will not exceed \$52,200,000. If, then, we have a revenue for the nine months of \$65,000,000 and an expenditure chargeable to consolidated fund of \$52,200,000, we shall have a surplus at the end of the nine months of \$12,800,000. The capital and special charges for the period have to be considered and these I place at \$12,500,000. That would leave a balance of half a million dollars in our favor; but, as about a million of the expenditure is a mere matter of account—we do not get rid of the money, but pass it into sinking fund, where it is credited to our net debt—the result of all these operations, as far as I can see them, is that at the close of the fiscal period of nine months, we shall have paid all the charges of every class and kind for the period, and shall have effected a reduction in the net debt of Canada during that period of about \$1,500,000.

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LIFE ON A Little World Primitive Methods Home Life

B. Sprake Jones of Herby gives the following very interesting account of life conditions in the far north in a paper Free press— "The natives of Herby are of two kinds: the land-tamut and the sea-shore Eskimos. It was a latter that I spent most of learning their ways and many of their peculiar customs in the far north. They are a short-statured, if sickness overtakes them they like a flower. The striking example of this was at the island. Measles, they, and no less than 22, which was a large number, perished in the population. Much addicted to the use of oil, their homes are some- times, but, discounting the custom of their life, they are whole, fairly clean. In many other primitive people morality, before they came into contact with the white man, is reprehensible. "There is no stability in their abodes. During the summer they live in turf covered huts during the extremely cold in snow houses. The last ed do credit to native construction. There is a living room from this, a covered passage to a kitchen, on the one hand, a store room on the other, and dogs' hut, beyond which the ice wall to break the fierce winds. The individual apartments of this conglomerate home are done up, with pigeon holes, frames, which bring the visitor to his knees. When chimney in the kitchen he drip, the Eskimos discard home, and in half an hour have a new one ready for occupation. It will be seen that they are a 'move on' when occasion demands. "DIET AND HABITS. "Their diet is generally All fat's and blubber they eat but what meat they can get they cook. They have a sweet consuming large quantities of tea and sugar. They are bibulous and inveterate smokers. 'Lady' know, takes her apart, after a spell of making the air, and sucks the night post, for which she has a passion. In their homes the nose do not wear anything, their out of door attire is a esque and warm. They seem to twof of everything, carrying a wardrobe on their broad shoulders. They have fur against the feet also outside and deer skin boot, the clothing of the children the no sex distinction. When P been out for his constitutional ting wood, carrying ice or water enjoying the excitement of the he goes home and summarily penses with most of his attire this matter he is not even de in the presence of the Eskimo. "The family life of the Eskimo happy. The mother has some points, which have gone of fashion in civilized countries, dresses the skins and makes clothes, and is industrious in lo- the provender which her man brings home. The children pretty, which may be taken as evidence of a happy disposition; skin is smooth and fair, while eyes are dark and their hair is affording the elements of satiation contrast. Parental kindness in the regions of the family. There is an absence of that unmanly vagrancy, so noticeable among the natives of tropical climates, where passions are alert. A chilly soulence creeps over the island the dark days. On the advent light, however, the Eskimo do great deal of hunting, but still sleeps in the day, it is warm. The voices of the children at chasing each other over the banks, frequently creep into slumbers. CHILD LIFE. "In infancy, the offspring are tied to the mother's back, and the bare skin, and covered by a warm coat. As soon as they can their teeth, they start out fat seal meat, and, sad to relate, an occasional whiff at the mate pipe, for which they cry, as the diary European child do. the rubber test. The consequence is that many contract a hardens the stomach, from which they prematurely. I had some expert of Eskimo children at our mission school, and I found it very difficult to fasten their attention. We sat them to count and say their All the days of the week, and month the year, and hymns. Beyond we could do every little with them. They fidget about, examine one