

The Herald

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Trend Of Tariffs Are Upwards

In support of our repeated statements that recently all countries in the world were increasing their customs tariff, we quote the following from a recent report of the Director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington.

A survey of tariff legislation in the principal foreign countries since the armistice reveals an unmistakable trend toward increases in duty, largely for protective purposes, but in some cases, particularly in Latin America for fiscal reasons; in a few cases increases in duty were justified by government officials as a means of discouraging the importation of non-essential articles.

While it would be difficult to determine the degree of responsibility for the upward movement that should be assigned to each separate factor, it may be well to enumerate the principal factors in the situation.

Doubtless the most influential factor is the general economic dislocation and interruption of normal economic life by the World War. During the war the economic activities of nearly every country in the world were influenced to a very large extent, directly or indirectly, by the military situation. The diversion of essential industries to production of war supplies; the Government control of supplies of raw material, labor, prices, and transportation; the abnormal shipping situation and credit conditions; the high margin of profit; and many other factors, too numerous to mention in a brief memorandum, all combined to bring about toward the end of the war an extremely artificial situation in practically every phase of economic life. A sudden restoration of competitive conditions, after the long period of trade restrictions, was obviously out of the question. While the reaction from government control was quite pronounced after the armistice, especially among commercial interests, it was generally recognized that the process of abolishing war restrictions and restoring more or less normal conditions would have to be gradual in order to avoid utter chaos. The industrial interests, in the principal belligerent countries, as well as in those neutral countries where war demand had created new industries or brought about an expansion of existing industries, were particularly anxious to secure additional protection during the reconstruction period, and governments, in many instances, resorted to upward tariff revision in efforts to solve this problem.

The following may be mentioned among the secondary factors responsible for increases in tariffs: 1. Depreciation of exchange, resulting in intensified competition from certain countries and also in a decrease of revenue derived from customs duties. 2. Abrogation of commercial treaties, by the war and the consequent withdrawal of reduced rates included in such treaties. 3. Tendency toward economic self-sufficiency and resulting demand for protection of essential industries for national reasons.

4. Unfavorable trade balance and consequent desire to discourage imports. 5. Desire to increase revenue from customs. 6. Retaliation for trade restrictions and tariff increases on the part of other countries; also desire to induce movements for the conclusion of new commercial treaties. 7. General movement for tariff revision in order to meet new economic conditions.

How Does Gouin Stand On National Railways?

(Special to The Mail and Empire)

Montreal, Nov. 6.—Sir Lomer Gouin's position in Quebec and in the Liberal party, and his entrance into Federal politics merges the very existences of the National Railways. He personifies the Corporation sentiment and ambition of Quebec and dominates the Liberal party. Mr. King may orate; Mr. Crerar protest; but Sir Lomer Gouin prevails. His avowed determination is the revision of the National Railways to corporation control; or, if this is impossible the burdening of the National system with the other railways of Canada stripped of their assets and the scrap remaining mortgaged by perpetuity guaranteed dividend charges. It is a bold scheme—all Montreal corporation schemes are bold—and its accomplishment is expected through a solid Quebec controlling the Liberal-Farmer entities. This is the sole object of Sir Lomer's reappearance in the political field.

His visit to Ontario is to lull the friends of nationalization into security; in Quebec he does not cloak his ambition. There he represents the ring that is fighting nationalization of public utilities and the unionization of Labor. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux is even more frank than his leader. Other Liberal leaders have joined enthusiastically in the conspiracy.

Fernand Roulet, late member for St. James, the editor of Le Canada, the chief Liberal organ in Quebec, has declared himself as opposed to public ownership, saying: "The first duty of the new Liberal administration will be to dispose of the Government Railways, not by creating a monopoly, but by giving them over to private owners. A solid Quebec will control the Liberal party, and if that party wins it must accept the Quebec policy."

The above despatch speaks for itself, and as a result of it the question the people are asking is exactly where Sir L. Gouin stands. It is not enough for him to say "Trust me and my fellow Liberals of Quebec." It is squarely up to him to explain his position. So far he has declared himself against national ownership. What then? Private ownership is the only alternative. Who are to be the private owners? What scheme, if any, has Sir Lomer? Has he studied the question except in an abstract way? He does not tell us anything new when he says the railways are a great pressing burden. We all realize that. What is the particular remedy Sir Lomer would advise? Has he thought the subject out at all or is he merely using it as an election cry? He cannot surely believe that the people will be satisfied with his statement that "something has to be done or the country will go bankrupt." Mr. Crerar said exactly the same thing, and there is no merit in it—it gets us nowhere. Perhaps Sir Lomer has an idea that because he says he will find the remedy people will fold their hands and rest content that the remedy is as good as found. If that be his point of view he might as well disabuse his mind of the fallacy. He has chosen to put the railway question in the limelight and it is his duty to declare definitely where he stands.

Why Labour Must Support Protection

Every member of a Labour Union must be a believer in a Protective Tariff from the very fact of his membership in a Labour Union. A Protective Tariff is enacted to protect Canadian labour and Canadian manufacturers against unfair and unequal competition from abroad. Labour Unions even go further than this, because they aim to protect against possible unfair competition by workmen of their own country, in fact, against workmen living in the same city, possibly in the same street.

Canadian industry requires protection against foreign competitors, but will take its chances against home competitors. Theorists, like Mr. Crerar, often make the academic charge that a Protective Tariff is immoral and selfish and solely for the benefit of the manufacturer, and is not reflected in the wage earner's pay envelope. We have heard such men say that if some other country can produce goods cheaper than we can, then it is an imposition on those not engaged in that particular industry in this country not to be permitted to buy the foreign goods. What those engaged in the home industry will do when driven out by foreign competition is a subject carefully ignored by these academic critics. Industries to which Protective Tariffs apply have some measure of protection against foreign competition, but Labor Unions have protection against both foreign and home competition, and, consequently, Labor Unionists should be the strongest supporters of the principle of a Protective Tariff for Canadian industries.

Kensington Mission Honors Mgr. D. J. Gillis

An event of unusual significance transpired in St. Mary's Chapel, Kensington, on Sunday last, in which Mgr. D. J. Gillis, the venerable and most faithful parish priest, was the central personality. The people of this section of the parish who have been strengthened and edified spiritually and corporally by the institution of Catholic worship here in Kensington, seized upon this occasion, the 80th birthday of the venerable parish priest, and at once emphasized it as an epoch marking event in the history of Christian work in this community. Coincident with this event is also the anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Kensington.

Properly to commemorate the occasion, the good people, with that unanimity so beneficial to Christian effort, took the necessary initiatory action and presented Mgr. Gillis with a set of most beautiful driving furs.

The address, read by Mrs. Parnell McMahon, was as follows: Rev. Mgr. D. J. Gillis, P.P., Kensington Mission, Indian River Parish.

Reverend and Dear Father:

We, the Catholic members of this parish who enjoy and are strengthened by the grace imparted by means of St. Mary's Chapel, Kensington, wish to approach you and to show even in an imperfect manner, our appreciation of your noble work. Though bound by no obligation, theological or civil, thus to minister unto the spiritual needs of the people here in Kensington as you now do, yet you have spared no efforts, missed no opportunity, to discharge the duties that you have thus voluntarily assumed. Neither lassitude from already strenuous work, nor almost impassable roads nor forbidding weather, could deter you from attending to the needs of your spiritual charge. Nor has lack of appreciation defeated your noble purpose. You have persevered under conditions actually contrary; and the vast amount of good that you have performed has shown that your noble purpose has been emphatically accomplished. But the good that you have done does not manifest itself adequately in this world; the number of souls that you

have saved and the number that you are guiding to salvation are the best evidence of the results of your boundless labor. How many today would be willing to return to conditions that attained before the institution of St. Mary's Chapel? Were we today deprived of the convenience, advantages and graces imparted through your ministrations in St. Mary's Chapel we would realize the bounteous treasure that it affords. May long years yet be spared you to perpetuate this noble work, and may the reward thus such a noble life merits be benignly showered upon you. Accept the accompanying gift which, we trust, will express the warmth of our gratitude. Signed by the members of St. Mary's Chapel, Kensington. Mrs. John T. Mullin made the presentation in the name of the donors.

Mgr. Gillis, in language simple and chaste, and in accents that showed how deeply he was moved, acknowledged the address and gifts with genuine appreciation. He noted the reference made in the address to the extra labor to be performed in order that minister to the needs of his charge in Kensington, but by comparison showed how insignificant that he had to accomplish in his early days. He once had to serve an expansion of country reaching from Vernon River to East Edului, a distance of forty miles, while relieving for Angus McDonald. The young people of today cannot realize the hardships that had to be endured while performing work that could not be done with ease and comfort. He recalled that he had now been in Indian River for thirty-one years, and during that long time has never missed Mass once. Again he expressed his feeling terms his gratitude for the beautiful gift. It is pleasant to know that you are remembered and that your work is appreciated, he said sincerely.

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