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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1912.

MR. MACKENZIE KING'S INDISCRETIONS.

As a visitor to St. John and as a forceful and eloquent speaker before Canadian clubs, Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King is very welcome. His address on the lessons to be learned from conditions in other lands will rank high among the many notable addresses which have been given before the Canadian Club of this city. So far so good. Judging by the tenor of an interview which appears in the Telegraph, however, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, ex-Minister of Labor in the Laurier Cabinet, is also on the scene and, presumably as a side line during his visit, is attempting to make capital for his party by disseminating inaccurate and wholly unwarranted statements regarding the Conservative Government. The Government, it will be recalled, was elected to power last September when Mr. Mackenzie King himself, with seven of his colleagues, was relegated to political oblivion. Under the circumstances it is not unreasonable to subject the ex-Minister of Labor's remarks in the Telegraph to some slight analysis.

The subjects to which Mr. Mackenzie King devotes his attention have already been discussed at length and no good purpose would be served by reviewing the many threadbare arguments which have been advanced time and again in the House by his friends. In referring, however, to the Tariff Commission Bill, which was killed by the Liberal majority in the Senate, he displays such an airy disregard for the facts of the case that his conclusions call for criticism. He tells us, for instance, that the reason the bill was dropped "at the last minute discloses motives on the part of the Government which are by no means creditable." He then proceeds to attribute to the Government "motives" of his own devising and which, in the light of the facts disclosed in the debate, are supremely ridiculous. He says:

"The Liberals had sought to have included in the "Tariff Commission Bill a clause which would protect "the consumer by requiring that when application was "made for an increase in the tariff, the Commission "would inquire into the profits made in this industry, the "amount of the output and other items which would show "the real need for additional protection. The Conser-"vative party was unwilling to adopt this amendment "and allow the profits of protection to be shown up, and "so allowed the measure to be sacrificed."

Now, when the Senate started on its erratic course, Section 4 of the bill already provided safeguards for the consumer on the broadest possible lines. It provided for an inquiry in respect of goods produced or imported into Canada; it stipulated that the Commission should make inquiry as to "the price and cost of raw materials," "the cost of production in Canada," "the cost of transportation in Canada and elsewhere," "the cost of transportation from the place of production to the place of use or consumption," "the cost, efficiency and conditions of labor," etc. Section 4 provided for inquiry in every conceivable way.

The amendment put forward by the Senate was obstructive and useless on the face of it. It demanded "a special report" when any application for increase in duty should be made to the Government. This amendment the Government refused to accept, and rightly refused, for reasons which the requirements of this "special report" make self-evident. For example the report was to show "the names of factories now existing and the number of hands now employed, giving in each case the number of men, women and children respectively." What the amendment demanded by the Senate amounted to was this: That if any man in Canada wrote to the Government and asked for an increase in the duty on some commodity the Commission would be bound to make "a special report," going into all the details, for which the amendment provided, in each particular case. The amendment served no good purpose and was obviously a deliberate attempt on the part of the Liberals at the suggestion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to hamper the legitimate work of the Commission.

Mr. White, the Finance Minister, made the situation plain in his speech rejecting the new sub-section providing for this "special report." He said: "Let us look at "what this means. Hundreds of letters come to the "Government every year—they come almost daily—ask-"ing for increases of duty. In such cases the Govern-"ment does not necessarily make inquiry, because it may "be perfectly obvious to the Government that no further "inquiry is necessary. Yet this amendment goes so far "as to provide that if a man writes a letter to the Gov-"ernment asking for an increase in duty then: 'The Com-"mission shall in addition to reporting upon the above "matters,' go into all the details here provided. I say "from the standpoint of the wording of the main sec-"tion and with regard to the intention as disclosed by the "wording of this sub-section, not only is this provision in "itself unintelligible, but it is entirely inconsistent with "the purposes of the Bill."

Mr. White's contention that the amendment was unintelligible is confirmed by the wording of the sub-section already quoted, requiring "a special report" on "the number of factories NOW existing and the number of hands NOW employed." Perhaps Mr. Mackenzie King who, the Telegraph tells us, is looked upon as "one of the great men of Canada," can explain what the word "now" would mean in a Dominion statute of this kind. As everyone knows the number of hands change in a factory day by day and week by week.

One other example of the incapacity of the obstructionists in the Senate to make their amendment intelligible will suffice. To again quote Mr. White:

"I come to sub-section (b), and I find the same defect "in wording, the same evidence of haste in drafting, the "same objection from the point of good legislation, as in "the main clause of the proviso of sub-section (a).

'In the case of any industry already esablished in Canada.'

"These are the main or governing words:

'A list of the shareholders and the number and amount of shares held by each shareholder.'

"Now, I ask if there is any sense in that sub-sec-"tion? What shareholders? When we say 'sharehold-"er' that suggests at once an incorporated company. "Yet there is not one word preceding that as to a com-"pany. 'A list of the shareholders.' What share-"holders? Are all industries of this country held by in-"corporated companies? Are there no industries held "by individuals or firms? Yet as I have said, not one "word preceding this relating in any way, shape, man-"ner or form to or suggestive of a company. It was "pointed out to me the other day by an hon. member "that all that information could be obtained from the "Provincial Secretaries of the Provinces and the Secre-"taries of State of the Dominion. I entirely concur, "and I say that it is from these officials that that in-"formation should be obtained. And I say that this "Commission which, if constituted, will have heavy "burdens thrown upon it under Section 4, should not "be cumbered, hampered, burdened, with obtaining in-"formation which is not in the slightest degree rele-"vant to Section 4—for there is not a word in Section "4 with regard to tariffs or reduction or increase. It "simply means that this amendment is to be used for "purposes other than those which are in any way ger-"maine or relevant to the inquiry which they would "be prosecuting under the chief clauses of the Bill.

'Number and amount of shares held by each share-"holder.'

"What relation has that to the cost of production "in Canada? And not only that, but what is the list "of the shareholders? I know of no law preventing a "man selling out his shares the day after he buys "them. The list of shareholders for March is chang-"ed in April, the one in August is changed in Septem-"ber. A motion is made in this House for a return "of the work of the Tariff Commission, and the House "will get a list of shareholders in January which "would be an authentic list in May, but which may "have been changed in all particulars by November.

"I submit to the judgment of this House, holding "this matter closely to the point at issue, that the "provision in this amendment of the Senate for a list "of shareholders, and the number of amounts of shares "held by each shareholder, is not only senseless, is not "only irrelevant to Section 4 to which it relates, but is "absolutely useless, because of its total unreliability "at the time it must come before this House."

Were Mr. Mackenzie King's friends in the Senate incapable of drawing up an intelligent amendment, or were these errors due to unusual haste to do the bidding of their benefactor Sir Wilfrid, and at all hazards destroy the measure? These verbal absurdities could be multiplied but enough has been submitted to show that no responsible Government under such circumstances could accept the Bill.

The contention that the Conservative party sacrificed the Bill rather than "allow the profits of protection to be shown up" is absurd on the face of it. As submitted to Parliament by the Government the Bill provided in the clearest terms for an exhaustive report on the industrial situation as it exists in Canada today. The Commission was not concerned with "the profits of protection" nor the losses of free trade. It was to furnish to Parliament and the Government full information on which changes in the tariff could be based. The Government held a mandate from the people to create a Tariff Commission and were prepared to redeem Mr. Borden's pledge. Through the irresponsible and partisan action of the Liberal majority in the Senate in submitting a senseless and unintelligible amendment the Bill was unfit to place on the Statute Book of the country. A careful study of the Hansard report of this debate, a privilege which Mr. Mackenzie King does not appear to have enjoyed, could lead to no other conclusion.

PREFERENCE TO THE MARRIED.

In strict justice, says the Hamilton Herald, payment for service should be according to the value of the service, without regard to the person who performs it. But there are many departures from the rule. In France, preference is given to married officials in almost all departments of the public service. This is done, as a matter of national policy, to encourage matrimony and so increase the population, one of the gravest dangers to which France is exposed being the falling birth rate.

Probably for a similar reason Australia has recently adopted a system of preference to married officials. The pay of unmarried officials has not been lowered, but the new regulations provide that married officials shall be remunerated on a higher scale. The difference between the two scales averages between twenty and forty per cent. But this is not the only discrimination in favor of married officials. It has been decided that when vacancies have to be filled and promotions made, preference shall be given to married men if they are otherwise qualified. No doubt population considerations have something to do with this Australian policy also. It is considered to be good national policy to give official encouragement to matrimony.

It might be criticzed as paternalism. But even at that it is to be preferred to the system in vogue in the commercial world, where preference is given to the unmarried because they can afford to work for less than the head of a family must get in order to live in comfort.

THE DUEL IN GERMANY.

The recent uproar in the Reichstag over the Prussian War Minister's defence of the duel in which his own nephew was killed, is not an isolated instance in Germany of protest against this barbarous practice. Its unusual warmth shows, however, how the feeling against the whole military code of "honor" is growing. Usually the opposition to duelling has come from Radicals and Social-Democrats. This time it was the Catholic Centre which took the lead in criticising both the army and the Kaiser.

At this instance of lese-majeste the War Minister was, of course, horrified. But the German public will not be. It knows that the military code of honor is an anomaly from Frederick the Great's time, that almost presupposes looseness of living among subalterns, and has on occasion justified officers in shooting or stabbing civilians for fancied insults to the service. Duelling is, of course, contrary to the German law.

Even more significant than the Reichstag's protests was the defeat of the Government on a subsidiary issue of the new defence bills and the fifty Socialist meetings in Berlin to demand that "no more millions be poured into the insatiable maw of the Moloch of militarism."

Current Comment

(Hamilton Herald.)

As might have been expected, the late W. T. Stead has been communicating from the spirit world through several mediums. It is to be regretted, however, that his communications are of the familiar sleepy sort, infinitely inferior to the brilliant stuff that the distinguished journalist used to throw off with hardly an effort when he was in the flesh.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Circumstances have caused four vacancies in the House of Commons, one each in the Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. In the course of events the bye-elections should soon be held. The result will be of interest. It will show whether the works of the Government or the words of the Opposition have been most acceptable to the people during the past eight months.

(Boston Transcript.)

A new test will confront Colonel Roosevelt next Saturday. What will the man who dares anything that doth become a man do with his invitation to march with the Men's League for Equal Suffrage in the Votes for Women parade?

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ALUMNI
KING'S COLLEGE, WINDSOR.
Annual Meeting in Convocation Hall, at 9.45 a. m., on
Wednesday, 8th May, 1912
being the day before Encaenia.
FARES: D. A. R., one fare. Ask for Excursion Return Tickets.
I. C. R. and C. P. R., their usual Standard certificate plans. Ask for Standard Certificates when purchasing tickets.
R. J. WILSON, Secretary.

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NEWCASTLE'S TOWN DRIVER GETS RAISE

Council of Busy North Shore Town Apdoints Officers for Year and Raises Town Teamster's Wages.

Newcastle, May 3.—At the Newcastle town council last night the salary of the town teamster, Wm. Hogan, was raised from $40 to $50 a month, and of Charles Edmunds, fireman at the power house, from $12.25 to $13.30 a week.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:

Sealers of leather—Edward Hickey, Edward O'Donnell.

Measurers of stone—C. E. Fish, John Williamson.

Surveyors of lumber—J. G. Layton, H. H. Lamont, John Dalton, J. E. T. Lindon, R. Lingley, H. S. Lindon, Jeremiah Craig, John Robinson, John Matheson, Benj. Reid, Thos. Holloran, Thos. Hickey, James Craig, Michael Craig, John Williams, Dan Sullivan, J. Robertson Allican, John Wood, Chas. Cassity.

Ferrymen—L. Coughlan, L. Macdonald, John Russell, James Maher.

Inspectors of butter—John Dalton, Henry Wyse.

Fence viewers—John Foran, Charles Crammond, Sr.

Inspectors of fish—T. W. Crocker, H. A. Vye.

Surveyors of dams—Thos. Herbert, Wm. E. Fish.

Boom masters—Andrew Cobb, James Baizley.

Inspectors of shingles—H. B. Cassidy, Henry Ingram.

Constables—Thomas C. Hill, Adam Dickison, John H. Ashford, Wm. Gallah, H. B. Cassidy, Andrew Mather, Wm. Irving, Thomas Fallon, John Jardine, Arthur Petrie, George Johnston, Clifford Macdonald, Samuel Matheson, D. C. Smallwood, Edward Hickey.

Hog reeves—Timothy Carroll, John Edmonds, James Dalton, Milner Coakley.

Poundkeepers—J. D. McAuley, James Dalton.

Weighers of hay and coal—Thomas Maltby, J. D. Paulin, G. G. Stothart, D. W. Stothart, Charles Stothart, Henry Carter, John Russell, Arthur Petrie.

Revisors of votes—Osborne Nicholson, P. J. McEvoy.

Policemen and Scott Act inspectors—T. C. Hill, Adam Dickison.

Board of health—Lt. Col. R. R. Maltby, Dr. R. Nicholson, Hugh Morris, J. H. Phinney, Edward Hickey.

Auditor—A. S. Murray.

Scott Act Inspector Dickison's report showed: For March, 6 cases for violation of C. T. act, resulting in 3 convictions and 3 dismissals; in April 4 cases, 2 convictions and 2 cases pending.

Ald. Stuart gave notice that at next regular meeting he would move a resolution in favor of taking steps to have a new valuation made of the real estate, personal property and income of the town.

The police committee were instructed to provide new uniforms for the policemen.

CLOSING STOCK LETTER.

By Direct Private Wires to J. C. Mackintosh & Co.

New York, May 3—The further complication of the general labor situation occasioned by the wage demands of the locomotive firemen took much of the spirit out of the bulls this morning and while support was vouchsafed at different times the buying lacked confidence and as prices declined the supporting limits were either lowered or entirely withdrawn. The reactionary tendency was variously interpreted, but conservative bulls expressed the opinion that a decline under existing conditions was the very best thing that could happen. On the other hand the small followers of bull leaders lost a considerable degree of confidence while outsiders who had been awaiting an opportunity to buy stocks on a better basis appeared to be apprehensive of a decline of measurable proportions. It is doubtful if general liquidation has proceeded far enough to materially improve the technical conditions although it is contended in some quarters that a large short interest is outstanding in many of the leading issues, notably steel and A. C. P. Much of the selling in U. S., however, seems to be well informed. The recent statement makes it obvious that the corporation must enjoy an unusually prosperous quarter in order to earn the common dividend for the first half year. Until the labor situation improves it is unlikely that any sustained advance of prices can be forced while further complications might cause selling of stocks sufficient in volume to carry prices several points lower.

LAIDLAW & CO.

Paid Official to Visit Fredericton.

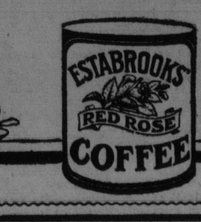
After an official visit to Hiram Lodge, Fredericton, Grand Master Dr H. S. Bridges returned home yesterday from the capital. He was accompanied on his visit by a number of officers from the Grand Lodge, including Grand Senior Warden P. W. Wetmore, Grand Junior Warden Ald. T. S. Wilkinson, of Fredericton; Grand Director of Ceremonies C. D. Jones, and Grand Treasurer J. Twining Hart, St. John. Following the official visit a dinner was held.

King's College, Windsor
ENCAENIA PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY.
Annual Meeting Haliburton Club 8 p.m.
TUESDAY.
Cricket Match King's College vs. Truro.
WEDNESDAY.
Alumni Meeting 9.45 a. m.
Alexandra Society 2 p. m.
Governor's Meeting 2.30 p. m.
Students Play in Opera House 8 p.m.
THURSDAY—Encaenia Day.
Holy Communion 8 a. m.
Annual Service; preacher, Rev. Provost Macklem, 10.30 a. m.
Annual Convocation 2 p. m.
Reception by President and Mrs. Powell 4.30 p. m.
Faculty and Students "at Home" 8 p.m.

Fragrance

WHEN you open a tin of Red Rose Coffee, you will surely be pleased with its unusual fragrance, and you will note particularly the small, even grains, free of the yellow flake or chaff which you have always been accustomed to see in the ground coffee you have used. This is the result of our new crushing process. The small grains settle quickly, so the coffee is never muddy, but always bright and clear. You will be convinced before you taste it, that it is a coffee of unusual quality. 224

Red Rose Coffee



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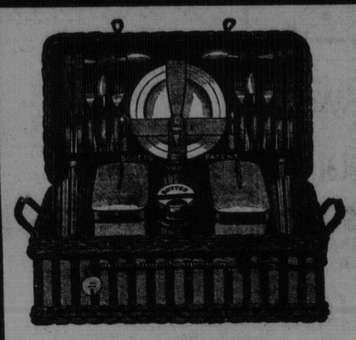

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