

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1921

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act, 1890. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Fawcett, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE LIBERAL MEETING

The great meeting at the Imperial on Saturday evening gave Hon. Mackenzie King an opportunity, of which he availed himself to the entire satisfaction of St. John Liberals, to answer the questions that had been put to him by Premier McEwen and the Conservative campaign committee. He left no shadow of doubt as to the Liberal policy in relation to the tariff; made good his charge of autocracy against the McEwen government; exposed the inadequacy of Tory statements in regard to the railway situation; gave ample illustrations of government extravagance, and made it absolutely clear that it is to a Liberal government the people of these provinces must look for the carrying out of the Laurier policy of developing Canadian trade through Canadian channels, including the national ports of the maritime provinces; which, so far as St. John is concerned, was begun when the Hon. William Pugsley was minister of public works, and was checked when the Borden government adopted a different railway policy.

It was a remarkable meeting. When the chair was taken by Mayor Schofield at nine o'clock every seat in the great theatre was taken, and in the galleries it was necessary to clear some of the aisles, while many persons were unable to get into the building at all. Considering the lateness of the hour, this was a fine tribute to the Liberal leader and a clear evidence of the desire of the people to hear his message. The greeting he received must have convinced him alike of his popularity as a leader, and of the strength of the Liberal cause in St. John. His brilliant oration, appealing to the most lofty sentiments of patriotism, was a fitting close to an address marked by dignity, moderation and an utter absence of flimsy argument or sectional appeal.

His fellow citizens were gratified on Saturday evening to observe how much Premier Foster has developed as a forcible public speaker since he first made his appeal as a political candidate in this constituency. His discussion of the railway situation shed much valuable light, and his casual observations regarding the Valley Railway and Hon. Mr. Baxter and his friends were keenly appreciated by the audience. His summing up of what Liberalism is, what it has done and what it stands for in the life of Canada, roused the audience to enthusiasm.

Though the hour was late, the audience remained to hear and cheer the clever young soldier and parliamentarian, Major Power of Quebec. He at once established a relationship between the ports of Quebec and St. John, in that both have been neglected in the tory government scheme of transportation, and his illustrations of racial good-feeling and mutual tolerance in Quebec province were both interesting and instructive. Not less interesting was his definition of the Canadian national spirit of Quebec, which is not well enough understood in other provinces. The point to remember is that the speaker was not a French-Canadian, but a man of another race, who represents a constituency that is three-fourths French-Canadian. Major Power's criticism of government policy in respect to the soldiers and the militia was a notable feature of a notable speech.

If the Conservatives believed that by confronting Hon. Mackenzie King with a list of awful questions they would embarrass that gentleman and spoil the effect of his speech, they reckoned without their host. The Liberal leader promptly embraced the opportunity to deal with the questions, and turn the tables with great effectiveness. Before he had finished his speech the McEwen government and its undemocratic methods had been fully exposed, as well as its misrepresentation of Liberal policy; while the true policy of the Liberal party—unchanged in principle since the days of Laurier—was clearly set forth. It will be quite useless hereafter before an unprejudiced St. John audience to try in any way to link up the Liberal party with the policy of free trade. Mr. King's remarks on the subject of the tariff were especially illuminating. He showed how the Liberals after 1896 revised the tariff in the interests of the people, reducing it where there was too much protection for any line of manufacture, or where a reduction would aid in the development of natural resources; and by the British preference greatly stimu-

lating trade with the mother country. He showed very clearly how too high a duty enabled a few manufacturers to take exorbitant profits, and how cheaper raw materials and implements of production benefited the country. He showed how too high a tariff increased the cost of living while at the same time it reduced the revenue and therefore called for more taxation. A tariff is merely a means to an end, and may easily be made a great injury instead of a blessing. Hence it is a necessary to have a revision from time to time, and there is need, today of the wisdom of the leaders of the same party whose revision after 1896 brought prosperity to Canada. To picture the Liberal party as a party out to destroy the industries of the country is quite too ridiculous.

No part of Mr. King's address struck so high a note as that in which he declined to offer criticism of the tory record of the government, and declared that with the war should end all the misunderstandings, the prejudices and sectional bitterness to which it gave rise. The war is over, the country faces problems which call for unity and co-operation, and he who seeks to revive old differences is not rendering the country good service. On this ground of appeal the Liberal leader deserves the support of the Canadian people, and when with it is joined the historic policy of that Liberalism which brought a golden era of prosperity after 1896, the duty of the electors on Dec. 6 is clear as the noon-day sun.

The welcome extended to Miss Booth yesterday by the citizens of St. John was an expression of the universal high regard in which the Salvation Army is held, but it was also a tribute to the granddaughter of the first General Booth, for her own sake and for his. The Army has long since established itself as a powerful and beneficent force in the life of Canada, and it unites with religious fervor a remarkable capacity for effective organization. In the war it proved as never before that it could do large things in a large way, and its funds are administered with a fidelity which commands universal respect. The social work of the Army, its work for children, and the business-like methods by which it extends help to the needy, commend it to every community. Miss Booth yesterday recalled the days, not yet far removed, when the Army was persecuted. Today it is a world-wide force for righteousness, and is still marching on to greater usefulness.

Turbulent Belfast continues to cause apprehension in the minds of those who hope for peace in Ireland.

The possibility of a great railroad strike in the United States is not a pleasant prospect on the verge of winter, and would not serve the best interests of labor.

LOCAL NEWS

OPENING OF THE BIG FAIR.

The St. Andrews Bunk has never before presented anything like the appearance it will this evening at 7.45 when the big Orphanage Fair will be opened by the Hon. William Pugsley, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, who will give the opening address and declare it well and truly opened at eight o'clock. Admission free. Door prize every night—Load of coal tonight. Season tickets at \$1. Book of six for \$5, good for chance on automobile and sleigh. But the greatest chance of all is to help in supporting and educating the orphans.

We sell the famous Golden Grove yarn for less money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte street.

LADIES' AUXILIARY A. O. H. Regular meeting Ladies' Auxiliary No. 1 Div. will be held in their hall, Union street, this evening, 8 o'clock. Full attendance is requested. 1840-10-18

We have 100 lineum squares, different designs, very useful in every house, 40 cts. each, at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte St.

ERROR IN AD. By an error, Percy J. Steel's footwear announcement was made to read "Misses." It should have read "28 pairs only, men's \$10 mahogany boots, white nelson sole, \$4.85 a pair, this clears the line."

Girls' blue middie skirts and bloomers for less money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte St.

ANOTHER GIFT FOR ORPHANS. Another check for \$100 was received on Saturday by the Sisters of Charity at St. Vincent's convent from the Carleton Curling Club, West St. John. The amount, which will be used for the orphans, is a portion of the receipts from the fair conducted by the curling club, which closed on Saturday. A similar amount was received about a week ago. The Sisters have expressed their appreciation on their own behalf and on behalf of the children who will be helped by this generous contribution.

You can do all your fall shopping for less money at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte St.

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Thinking Hard.

What surprises me most about Scotland (writes a visitor) is not the absence of haggis and the kilt or the presence of fully metalled roads, but the silence of the barber's shops. Artist and client say nothing more to each other than the few words necessary for the success of the operation in hand. When I remarked on this phenomenon to a much-travelled Scot, "Aye," he commented, "they're both thinking hard about the tip."

An Important Omission. "Your collection doesn't seem complete," said the visitor to the Natural History Museum. "What do you mean, sir?" "I don't see here that most beautiful of all insects, the one that brings disappointment, spoils pleasure, causes divorce, deceives the credulous, frustrates hope and leaves the fondest expectations filled—I refer to the fly in the ointment."—Boston Transcript.

MANIFESTO BY FARMER LEADER

(Continued from page 1.)

To The People of Canada:— We who live in Canada are fortunate in that we live under the form of government by which the people say who shall make their laws and administer their affairs. In a few weeks you will be called upon to discharge this duty. You will consider the state of our national affairs, and will decide the course they shall take. At no time in the fifty years of our country's history has there been so much to begeth of our national problems as now. The temper in which we approach them, the singleness of mind with which we attack them, the honesty with which we judge them, mean much for the future of our country.

It is, therefore, a matter of supreme importance that we people take an interest in government. Not a fleeting, academic interest, but an active intelligent, continuing interest, an interest based on the consideration of national good and of the national good alone. To an alarming degree, the belief has grown, and prevails, that the agency of the government has been made for the furthering of personal or sectional or class interests, and that special interests have been able to influence legislation to their own gain, confidence in the institutions of government by the elected representatives of the people, as the fountain from which even-handed justice should flow, has been undermined, with resulting widespread distrust, and in some cases, even contempt of our parliamentary institutions. This must be set right. Our parliamentary life must be purified of the influences that have soopied it, and the individual who is called upon to discharge his public duty, from which spring our laws and their administration. Government is a serious business at any time. It is a particularly serious business to the Canadian people at the present time, for our resources are so grave that only by the wisest counsel, by the most unflinching courage, by the most unremitting care of the public business of the country and by a single-minded devotion that seeks only the country's good, can they be successful.

In this election a new party makes its appeal to the Canadian people. It began in a humble way among the agricultural portion of our people. Every aspiration for purer government, every protest against public wrongs in high places has its origin in small beginnings. If there is good in it, if its spirit is right, it will grow, and the proof of its justice lies in the strength it attracts to itself. No one who has studied closely the farmer movement, so called, in Canada but will admit it has imperfections. But no one who studies it and is honest will deny that it embodies an aspiration for purity in government, for higher standards of public morality, and for the sweeping away of special privilege in all its forms. From a small beginning it has spread over almost the entire country, attracting to its support from all classes and sections of our people. The tendency of political parties is towards reaction, and a protest arises instinctively from the people against such reaction. The new political movement in Canada is such a protest, and, further, is essentially a movement of liberalism—not in the sense of a party name, but in the sense of a true sense of the word—that seeks to sweep away abuses in government and to provide political justice to all. It is to all those throughout the broad expanse of Canada who desire to see purity in government, who desire to see the government free from the influence of special interests, who desire to see the government for the advancement of the interest of the new privileged few.

Financing Elections.

In nothing is the spirit of the progressive movement more clearly revealed than in the matter of financing election expenses. Legitimate election expenses form a necessary part of the business of electing a new parliament. It is a fact beyond dispute that in the past campaign funds, running often into millions of dollars, have been provided by the managers of the old parties and distributed amongst constituents for the purpose of meeting not only legitimate expenses but for use on other ways, corrupt and altogether indefensible. These campaign funds have been provided by railway promoters, by manufacturers or by other interests which were actuated, not by any desire whatever for the public welfare, but solely by the sordid hope of getting benefits in the way of legislation, or by administrative favoritism from the party they assisted in returning to power. The member of parliament elected under this system was not a free agent. He was expected to stand by his party through thick and thin, if he showed signs of independence the whole weight of the party organization was used to crush him. This is not a sober statement of fact. It is not too much to say that the deplorable and serious railway situation which we have in Canada today is, in a very large measure, the offspring of this system. Railway promoters, wanting government guarantees or direct cash assistance, put up the campaign funds, and then, sheltered behind the tariff they had purchased, exploited the Canadian people to their own enrichment. Party campaign funds and the sources from which they have come, have been the greatest single corrupting agency in the public life of this country. As we try to mix oil and

water as get purity in government under these conditions.

And what is the situation today? The old spirit is in evidence, the old methods are in operation. It is already plain that the government plans to spend unlimited money in this campaign. Where does the money come from? Who are providing these immense campaign funds? The same interests that have supplied it in the past. By all the agencies and influences that money can buy or control, the government hopes to secure a verdict from the Canadian people. In that case the government itself and its following in the house would be utterly controlled by the interests that put them there. I ask you to contrast this sordid spirit, these selfish corrupting influences, with the method followed by those who are taking part in the new political movement in Canada. We are free men and we want a free parliament, and to that end scores of thousands of voters throughout Canada are providing the funds necessary to carry on the election campaign. This is the business of the people. This is it that I ask all good Canadians who want to see their country prosper, who desire to see decency in public life and public administration which is the better method? To which will you give your adherence? The prime minister says the tariff is the only issue. The tariff is an issue, a very important issue, but the supreme issue today is whether our government is to be free or fettered, and whether legislation in the future shall be for the few or for many.

The progressive movement recognizes that while we need a new moral atmosphere in politics, any government has to meet vast problems of practical administration. A new government, then, must bring to work not only a measure of ideals but as well sound practical business judgment, and high administrative capacity. Because of the financial condition of this country and the obligations we are facing, the great need today is sound business administration of this country's affairs. The extent of our country, the rapidity with which it has been opened up, and the sparsely settled population, the interest on our debt which must be provided for, the country's cash disbursements, the necessities of our returned men which must always be a first charge on our consideration and our resources, our huge railway obligations, the necessity for constructive development, impose a tax upon the government such as has rested upon no other in our history. The best minds available both inside and outside the new parliament, must be enlisted for the consideration and solution of these problems, and no matter what the position of the Progressive Party may be in the next parliament, it will apply itself to the discharge of this vast task along with the best minds available. In any case, the national well-being must be the first concern of every good citizen. But to the end that we may develop this country wisely and handle our resources in the most effective way to add to our national wealth, the national Progressives have certain definite constructive policies upon which they invite the judgment of the Canadian people. In this connection we place in the front rank the fiscal and trade policy. Any sane and sensible view of Canada's position today all are agreed that our financial condition is critical. They are all agreed that it becomes then a question of paramount importance how we can best develop the assets of Canada, so as most speedily get back to solid ground and be relieved of our anxieties.

Protection.

For over forty years we have had a fiscal policy based on the principle of protection. Those who advocate today, and would continue it, endeavor to protect the people by the legacy of evils to follow, if it is removed or even in any degree modified. What is the purpose of a protective tariff? The answer is to exclude foreign goods in order that the home manufacturer may have an advantage in the home market. It thus interferes with the naturally profitable interchange of goods.

It is a fact, however, that a nation can only grow rich by trade with the world. It is a well known truth, also, that trade cannot be one-sided. If we are to sell we must buy, and if, by the operation of high tariffs, trade is made difficult, to that extent is the development of wealth restricted. The effect of the policy of protection in Canada has been to build up a few large cities through manufactures, much to the detriment of which has to be imported into the country.

Among the reasons urged in favor of this policy is that the Canadian farmer is prosperous by reason of the home markets thus provided him. But has it done this? The verdict of stern facts is against it. After forty years of protection in Canada there is no one who knows anything whatever of our economic situation but realizes this fact, that agriculture was never in so difficult a position as today. It has been said that agriculture is the foundation of our prosperity. Since this is the case, it is surely reasonable to expect that the maintenance of a fiscal policy that places handicaps, often severe, on the development of this national and national industry of Canada. Where does the source of our national wealth lie? It lies in the development of our fertile lands, our forests, our mines and our fisheries. It does not lie in importing raw material and turning it into manufactured goods under high protection.

Our policy then is frankly based on the principle of first developing the natural wealth of the country. We would make the tariff burden on the farmer and on the workmen as light as possible, not in the sense of any favor to them, but for the reason solely of encouraging the development of our agriculture, our mines and our forests. If we can double or treble the production from these sources in the next ten years, we will save the situation and solve our problems.

It follows that if these great natural industries are thriving and prosperous the manufacturing industry will share in the expansion, because all the facts of the case furnish convincing evidence that Canada's prosperity rests not primarily in the creation of large cities but in the development of a sturdy, industrious and contented agricultural population.

Morally Wrong. There is also the moral aspect of the protective system. Nothing that is morally wrong is economically wise. Without doubt the protective tariff in the past has placed a heavy burden upon the cost of living of the people, and is doing so today. And with what result? It is a notorious fact that many companies carrying on a manufacturing business in Canada have been reorganized and reorganized again, through the agency of the stock promoter. Watered stock to the extent of millions of dollars has been injected into the capital of many of these companies enjoying the highest protection. The owners of this stock, worthless at the time it was issued, have since reaped huge profits from it through the operation of this tariff. Protection enriches one individual.

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