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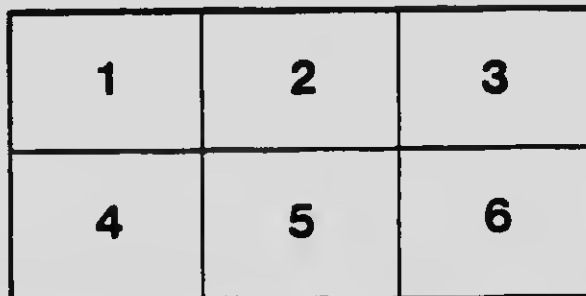
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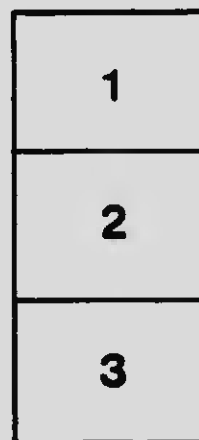
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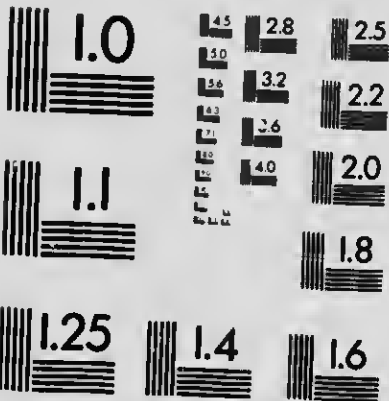
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# THE TARIFF ISSUE

## IN CANADA

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### The Attitude of the Two Parties Regarding It

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**Extracts from Speeches, Resolutions and the  
Party Press, showing clearly what each  
Party stands for with respect  
to Customs Duties**

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It is important that the people of Canada should know exactly how the political parties stand with respect to the tariff. It is therefore proposed to submit a collection of speeches and declarations to show the attitude of each.

In the first place, then, the electors should know that the Conservative party to-day stands for the highest form of high protection, the kind of protection that the manufacturers believe in. The Conservative policy was formally set forth during the Parliamentary Session of 1902. Here is the resolution containing it as proposed by the Conservative leader, Mr. R. L. Borden, and supported by his followers:

"This House, regarding the operation of the present tariff as unsatisfactory, is of opinion that this country requires a declared policy of adequate protection to its labor, agricultural products, manufactures and industries, *as will at all times secure the Canadian market for Canadians*. And, while always firmly maintaining the necessity of such protection to Canadian interests, this House affirms

its belief in a policy of reciprocal trade preferences within the Empire."

Now, the above policy is identical in effect with the tariff proposals of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, as set forth by resolution at the big convention held at Halifax. The Manufacturers' resolution was as follows:

"Resolved that, in the opinion of this Association, the changed conditions which now obtain in Canada, demand the immediate and thorough revision of the tariff upon lines that will more effectually transfer to the workshops of the Dominion the manufacture of many of the goods which we now import from other countries.

"That in any such revision the interests of all the sections of the community, whether of mining, fishing, or manufacturing, should be fully considered, with a view, not only to the preservation, but to the future development of all these great national industries.

"That, while such tariff shall be primarily framed for Canadian interests, it should nevertheless give a substantial preference to the mother country, and, also, to any other part of the British Empire with which reciprocal preferential trade can be arranged to our mutual advantage, recognizing always that under any conditions the minimum tariff must afford adequate protection to all Canadian producers."

The more the two resolutions are studied, the more points of identity are discovered. The only object the manufacturers have in their tariff proposals is to bring about conditions which will enable them to charge more for their products than they do to-day. That is, they want to make the consumer pay higher prices. The Conservative policy is the same as that of the manufacturers. The Conservatives want to make the consumer pay higher prices.

That the "adequate protection" of the Conservative policy means the highest possible protection, is shown by the speeches of Conservative M. P.'s in Parliament. Below are extracts from speeches by Mr. Borden and others.

All the extracts are from Revised Hansard, the official report of Parliamentary proceedings. It may be explained that the proofs of every speech delivered in Parliament are sent to the M. P. delivering the speech, and he makes all necessary corrections. Thus it is clear that, so far as Hansard reports are concerned, no one can claim to have been misrepresented.

The following are extracts from tariff speeches by Conservative leaders:



MR. R. L. BORDEN, LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

(From Hansard, for Session of 1902, page 28.)

"I, for one, do not believe in the doctrine of buying in the cheapest market, if it is to be done at the expense of our manufacturing industries."

(From Hansard, page 1334.)

"One would expect that if we intend to maintain and build up our own products and manufactures against such powerful and tremendous competition as that which we must anticipate from the United States, we would fix our tariff of customs against that country on a scale at least as high as is that of their tariff against us. We must remember that our producers and manufacturers are restricted very much as to the home market, while in Great Britain and in other countries we enjoy no advantages in their markets over the United States. In Germany, for example, Canadian products have to meet a less favorable tariff than that which the United States enjoys. While we have no greater advantages abroad, we have a more restricted market at home on account of our small population; and we, therefore, can reasonably say that, having regard to that fact, there is all the more reason for that restricted market, such as it is, being protected for the manufacturers and for the agricultural producers of this country."

(From Hansard, page 1335.)

"Therefore, 91 per cent. of the goods manufactured in Canada have been consumed in Canada. We have, consequently, at the present time, to look to the home market and not to a foreign market. Having regard to that, is it not right that we should take care that the home market is properly protected for the industries of this country?"

(From Hansard, page 1336.)

"What I object to in any principle of reciprocity of tariff or retaliation of tariffs is that IT MAY BIND US TO PUT OUR TARIFF DOWN, admitting United States manufactures to crush out our own manufactures, &c."

(From Hansard, page 1337.)

"Though I believe the laboring classes, the manufacturing classes and the agricultural classes of this country, for the sake of developing the country, for the sake of keeping their markets for themselves, for the sake of preventing American competition, which has reached so disastrous a point, would be willing for a few years at least, *to pay slightly increased prices, if necessary.*"

MR. RUFUS POPE, M.P.

Mr. Rufus Pope, M.P., like his leader, has talked protection

pretty straight. Hansard of 1902, page 2419, reports him as saying in regard to Mr. Borden's tariff resolution:

"The resolution that I would have preferred would have been for a Chinese wall all round."

(From Hansard, page 2425.)

"That policy which we shall propound will be one which will carry out, only in a more extended degree, the objects aimed at by the policy which our political fathers adopted in 1878."

A. C. BELL, M.P.

Mr. A. C. Bell, of Pictou, said (Hansard, page 287):

"Free Traders we cannot expect or hope to be, and therefore it strikes me that the only alternative before us is one leading to a system of protection which shall be really effective, and not merely nominal."

(From Hansard, page 1696.)

"So far as we on this side of the House are concerned, we are free to say that we desire a policy that shall declare and shall establish such a system of protection as will sustain and protect every industry in Canada to-day, and will as rapidly as possible develop within our country such industries as are likely to succeed in it; and that as soon as possible Canada shall, in the matter of manufacturing, supply all her own wants and shall buy as little as possible from the outside world."

(From Hansard, page 1698.)

"Now, in respect to free trade with the United States, it is perfectly clear from the figures given us in the course of this debate by the Hon. Member for North Norfolk, that we have not sufficient protection."

(From Hansard, page 1705.)

"I am always free to believe that in this matter (Preferential Tariff) our Government has made the mistake of being too generous, and did not in the full realize, as it now does, the consequences of it."

MR. NORTHRUP, M.P.

Mr. Northrup, of Hastings, is reported in Hansard of 1902, page 2269, as follows:

"The Conservative party lays down the principle which the hon. gentlemen are beginning to understand that it is just as essential that the protection given to any industry shall be a complete and adequate protection for the time being as it is that that protection shall be a constant protection, so that those who engage



in that industry need not be afraid that every session they may have all their stocks and profits swept away, but shall know that the Government is going to give that industry the protection it requires."

DR. SPROULE, M.P.

On page 1758 of Hansard, 1902, appears the following from the lips of Dr. Sproule, of East Grey:

"Our policy is a protective policy in the interests of the people of the country." . . . . "It aims at protecting the labor of the country; it aims at protecting the manufactures of the country, and not allowing this market to be made a slaughter market for the surplus products of foreign countries."

E. F. CLARKE, M.P.

(Hansard, 1902, page 1614.)

"There is certainly a great deal of room for improvement in that tariff; and if the resolution presented by the hon. leader of the Opposition met with the approval of the members of this House, a decided improvement would be made in the tariff and a substantial benefit done to the interests of the country thereby."

(From Hansard, page 1639.)

"And that the resolution presented by the hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Borden, Halifax) is on the right line; that the time has come when a declaration of a definite policy of protection should be announced by the Parliament of Canada, a policy under which we would not be meeting with appeals from year to year from manufacturers and workmen, asking for the reasonable measure of protection to which they are entitled to enable them to carry on their business against the fierce competition which exists in the United States and elsewhere throughout the world."

MR. CLANCY, M.P.

(From Hansard, 1902, page 2366.)

"How can he better the country by a revenue tariff? That is a dead-weight tax-collecting tariff, but a protective tariff protects the interests of the people of Canada, and it is the only weapon we can use against foreign countries who make commercial warfare on us."

(From Hansard, page 2351.)

"And what are the weapons of defence that shall be used in Canada? Does not the hon. gentleman throw them away when he refuses to use them and proposes to impose a dead weight upon Canada by a revenue tariff, as he calls it?"

(From Hansard, page 2352.)

"Why, Sir, the preference was given to Great Britain alone, and the outcome is that there is not one redeeming feature in the preferential tariff in so far as any benefit to the people of Canada is concerned."

RICHARD BLAIN, M.P.

Richard Blain, of Peel, said (Hansard, 1902, page 1407):

"In so far as I am concerned, I wish to say that the preferential tariff is not at all satisfactory to the people."

(From Hansard, page 1499.)

"I hold that the tariff should be so arranged that every institution in this country which is manufacturing goods to be consumed by the Canadian people, should have *sufficient protection to keep out the same class of goods made in any foreign country*; and I have no hesitation in saying that *if that country should be England, the policy of Canada should be framed in the interests of the Canadian taxpayer as against the people who are producing the same class of goods even in the Old Country, under the same flag.*"

GEORGE TAYLOR, M.P.

George Taylor, of South Leeds, chief Conservative whip, is reported on page 2087 of Hansard, 1902, as saying:

"Here we stand as one man declaring in favor of *increased and adequate protection* to the manufacturing, agriculture, fishing, mining and other interests of this country."

Andrew Broder, of Dundas, is reported on page 2191 of Hansard, 1902, as saying:

"If there is one thing more than another that renders high protection necessary in Canada, it is the conditions of the country."

W. R. BROCK, M.P.

W. R. Brock, Centre Toronto, Hansard of 1902, said, on page 1562:

"If they are not free traders, they must be protectionists. The medium course is not an honest course. This country is demanding that our industries should be protected."

On the same page he referred to the preferential tariff as a 'one-sided preference,' and on page 1565 he said:

"If you give such transportation facilities that our farmers in the North-West place their grain in the English market at a favorable price, as compared with grain from the United States, I contend that the people of the North-West *are big enough and*

*strong enough to stand a little duty on some kinds of imported goods."*

#### D. HENDERSON, M.P.

Mr. Henderson, of Halton, another prominent Conservative member, devoted a great deal of attention to an attack on the preferential tariff. Hansard, at page 2376, reports him as saying:

"Then the hon. gentleman spoke very badly about the preferential tariff, and asked: Why do you not move to repeal it? If we had fifty of a majority on this side of the House we would very soon repeal it. I would have no hesitation any day recording my vote in this House to wipe out the present preferential tariff. I never favored it. I do not expect to live long enough to be able to favor a one-sided preference such as we have now."

Mr. Henderson also took strong exception to the claim of some of his fellow-Conservatives that the Liberals had stolen the Conservative's clothes. Hansard of 1902 reports him at page 2384 as saying:

"It was said in the early days of the present tariff that the Liberals had stolen our clothes. I never said so, but of course when the preferential duty was only 12 1-2 per cent., and when, on colored cotton goods and many other goods, the duties were practically the same as under the Conservative regime, there was some reason for perhaps coming to the conclusion, without due consideration, that the Liberals had stolen our clothes. But I DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE DONE ANYTHING OF THE KIND. I AM ONLY SORRY THAT THEY DID NOT, FOR IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE COUNTRY IF THEY HAD. THEIR TARIFF IS, INSTEAD, JUST THE ANTIPODES OF OURS."

#### A POLICY OF HIGHER PRICES.

The lesson from the above quotation is this:

The Conservative party, by formal resolution in Parliament, has declared for a policy of "adequate protection," which means, in the light of the speeches of its leading M.P.'s, a policy of the highest kind of protection. The party is not satisfied with the protection of the old N. P., but, in the words of the leader, R. L. Borden, wants a tariff at least as high as that of the United States. It is clear that on the tariff question the Conservatives and manufacturers agree. Both want increased protection. *The only reason that increased protection is desired by the manufacturers is that*

*it will enable them to charge higher prices for their products.* If it did not it would be of no value to them. But the object of the manufacturers' policy being to secure higher prices, the object of the Conservative policy, which is identical with that of the manufacturers, must be the same. Therefore, the Conservative policy is to increase the prices of the articles required by the Canadian consumer.

## LIBERAL POLICY.

The Liberal policy upon the tariff question is crystallized in the present tariff.

When the Liberal party met in the great National Convention, held at Ottawa in June, 1893, the commercial situation of the country was fully and carefully considered, and it was declared that the highest interests of Canada demanded the removal of the policy then existent, which was founded upon the principle of protection and the substitution of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, would promote domestic and foreign trade and hasten the return of prosperity to our people. It was also declared that the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical, and efficient government, and that it should be so adjusted as to make free or bear as lightly as possible upon the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, *particularly with Great Britain and the United States.*

That, in substance, was the pronouncement or pledge of the Liberal party on the trade question; that was the message of the Liberal party to its leaders when they assumed the reins of power in 1896.

What has been the fulfilment?

The first step taken by the Government was the appointment of a committee of its members, comprising Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. W. S. Fielding, and Hon. Wm. Paterson, to ascertain in an exact and definite way the precise situation of all classes and sections of the country and their actual needs. This committee held meetings in most of the principal cities and towns of the country, which were attended by representative men in all spheres of industrial life, who were given every opportunity of expressing their views.

Having completed their labors, the committee duly made its

report to the Government, and the whole question was then given that full, fair and serious consideration which its great importance demanded.

The result of the deliberations of the Government was the adoption of the present trade policy, which was a judicious, business-like, well-considered, and very material measure of reform. The chief features of that policy were:

First. A reduction in the average rate of taxation of about ten per cent. from the rate under the Conservative tariff of 1896.

Second. The transference to the free list of a large number of articles which are necessities of the farmer, such as binder twine, barb and other fencing wire, Indian corn, cream separators, and a reduction in the rates of many other articles of necessity to the farmer and people generally.

Third. A reduction in the rates of duty on iron and steel and coal, and the transference to the free list of many articles of raw material, thus stimulating manufacturing industries.

Fourth. An increase in the duties on wines, spirits, cigars and other luxuries, and,

LAST, but by no means least, the granting of a substantial preference to the goods of Great Britain.

The wisdom of that policy is reflected in the prosperous condition of the country since its adoption. It is generally considered by all who have taken the trouble to study the question, that the new tariff was a very fair measure of tariff reform and a well-considered step in the right direction.

The Government gave careful thought to the conditions of trade in all parts of the Dominion, and framed a tariff based upon revenue, not protection, as a principle, a tariff which does injustice to no class, which is simple in classification, and which materially reduced the burdens of the people.

Liberals stand to-day upon the same tariff platform that they stood upon in 1896 and 1900. But some Conservatives, upon finding themselves in districts where high protection is unpopular, try to distract attention from themselves by attributing protectionist views to the Liberals. The best answer to such allegations can be obtained from Conservative sources. In the first place we have the testimony (already quoted) of Mr. D. Henderson, M.P. for Halton, that the Liberals have not "stolen our protectionist clothes." And we

have but to look at the Conservative newspapers to get any quantity of such testimony. Now, if these papers thought there was anything in the "stolen clothes" idea, they would not hesitate to exploit it, for the theft would be the strongest possible tribute to their policy. But they emphasize the fact that the Liberals do not stand for protection and appeal to the protectionists to have nothing to do with the party that dares to show any consideration for the consumer. Here are a few quotations in this connection:

TORONTO MAIL AND EMPIRE, chief Conservative organ, Feb. 15th, 1902:

"We cannot allow our own industries to be wiped out, as they would be, if the Sifton view should prevail."

MAIL AND EMPIRE, April 19th, 1902:

"At this moment the Provincial Government supports Mr. Sifton, who says that Ontario industries, if insufficiently protected, had better shut up."

MAIL AND EMPIRE, Sept. 8, 1902:

"Mr. Tarte has lost no time in replying to his colleague, Mr. Sifton. Immediately that Mr. Sifton issued his lower tariff interview, Mr. Tarte hastened to Toronto with a higher tariff oration. Although Mr. Tarte does not say in so many words that the Liberal-Conservative policy of Canada for the Canadians is, and always was, right, that is what his speech means. He points to the growing importations from the United States, and wants to know why we cannot have proper tariff laws, building up our own industries for our own operatives and our own farmers. Mr. Sifton, who says that proper tariff laws rob the consumer, now has the floor. It rests with him to justify his lower tariff crusade."

"Where are Ontario's Cabinet representatives in the tariff fight? Are they all afraid of Mr. Sifton?"

OTTAWA CITIZEN, Sept. 16, 1902:

"The Toronto Star, the newspaper organ of Hon. Mr. Mulock, demands that the leaders of the Liberal party shall not forget those who journeyed with them long years in the wilderness; namely, the free traders, and says the latter expect that, although they may sometimes sit at the table of the Philistines" (meaning thereby the protectionists), "they will remain true to Israel."

"The utterances of the Liberal press, both in its virulent attacks on Hon. J. Israel Tarte, and its subsequent comments on the existing situation, give ground for serious surmise that there is more in the present row than appears on the surface. Has the Liberal party, or at least its leaders, been meditating the overthrow

of protection, and is the sudden bolt of Hon. Mr. Tarte in the nature of a revolt against a movement as yet only foreshadowed in the utterances of the Grit press. From the latest tones of these comments it looks as though Mr. Tarte had forced the hand of plotters who have in view nothing less than the overthrow of the tariff and a return, if not to free trade, to tariff for revenue only. The mere difference of opinion between the two ministers as to whether the policy of protection should remain as it is, or that the Government should go a little further, hardly accounts for the virulence with which Mr. Tarte has been attacked in the columns of the leading Liberal newspapers for voicing his views. It was more like the embittered vituperation of foiled conspirators, whose plans had been thwarted, than the grave and temperate reasoning of a party press with, let us say, an imprudent member of the Government in the absence of the Prime Minister.

"That appears to be frank enough. The free trade cranks did not think the country would stand for a reversal of policy when the Liberal party came into power, but now, as times are prosperous and people in better temper, they think the occasion opportune to throw protection to the winds and go back to a tariff for revenue only. Here is the proposal made in cold blood by a paper that is recognized as the mouthpiece of a minister for Ontario, and the utterances of other leading Liberal organs, though more or less veiled as yet, bear a similar construction.

"The large majority of the people of Canada are protectionists. The prosperity of Canada is founded upon and guarded by protection. What guarantee of permanence is there, or ever has been, for that policy in the hands of its avowed and determined opponents? They have made concessions to the exigencies of the situation, as the Star says, but in their hearts they are not in sympathy with it, and it would appear that when the exigencies of the situation permit they are ready to undermine and overthrow it."

#### MAIL AND EMPIRE, Oct. 4th, 1902:

"With increasing violence is the campaign against Canadian industry conducted by the free trade wing. There can be no doubt that the struggle was precipitated by the war-like declarations of Mr. Sifton at the last Liberal convention in Winnipeg. After apologizing for the moderation of the tariff reductions so far made, Mr. Sifton sounded the free trade slogan, and pronounced, as a Western man, against the Eastern worker. Already the defence of the Eastern enemy had been reduced by a compromise between the protectionists and free traders in the Government. While the present duties might not be heavy, that, nevertheless, was no reason why they should not be lighter. If the Eastern industries could not live under the present tariff, the sooner they shut up the better.

"Mr. Sifton's cue has been accepted by his faction in and

out of the Government. Mr. Fisher, and the agency controlled by that Minister, demanded a further assault upon industry. The Toronto Globe announces in triumphant tones, that the work is certainly to be continued. It threatens, as another instalment, a further increase in the British preference, which, as we all know, is more useful to Germany than the Motherland. Tariff changes there will be, says the organ, but they will all be in the direction of freedom or free trade, and not of restriction or defence for Canadian labor. In the far East the Halifax Chronicle has taken up the tunc. That paper represents the situation as one appertaining exclusively to the manufacturers. It throws aside with contempt the interests of the great army of operatives skilled in industrial lines, the interests of the merchants who sell to them, and the interests of the farmer who feed them. The manufacturers, we are told, have huge funds at their disposal. They intend to place these funds where they will do the most good; that is to say, they intend to buy the politicians as cheaply as possible, and in turn to sell themselves to the politicians at fancy prices.

"Their aim is to secure adequate protection for Canadian industry. They did this once before, and the N. P. was the outcome. Then the Liberal party came into power, but even they, fresh from the people, had not the strength or the courage to carry out their undertakings in full. The day for action has come, for, says the Halifax Chronicle:

'Now is the time for Canada to resist—to make an effective stand for industrial and commercial freedom. Everything but the interests of the combined manufacturers and a few contemptible, time-serving politicians, urges the people to stand firm. Will the people encounter the certainty of being plundered and trampled upon for years to come for the gratification of any petty partisan considerations, or that a few selfish manufacturing and political schemers may triumph?'

"The anti-Canadian policy is thus preached. It is war to the knife against Canadian industry, against the Canadian workman, and against the Canadian farmer, although as a political or diplomatic expedient, the manufacturer is mentioned as the criminal in the case. Mr. Tarte's efforts to graft a Canadian policy upon the party have been so far in vain. The more earnestly he has urged the abandonment of the old views, the more violently have the doctrines been asserted, and the more threatening has the attitude of the anti-Canadian wing become. The situation now, in view of the fury with which the general interests are attacked, is more serious for the people than it has been for years. There is a pronounced element in the party that will not listen to reason, and that, even if it should make a temporary surrender, or consent to another compromise to protect itself in office for a few years, cannot possibly be trusted. In the past it has been difficult to understand



how any man of enterprise, whose all is invested in industrial undertakings; how any workman, whose employment depends upon the success of the existing industries and upon the creation of others; how any merchant, whose business rests upon the prosperity of the entire community; how any farmer, whose prices are governed by the size and nearness of his market, can place himself and his interests in the power of politicians who are openly and frankly his enemies, and who tolerate him only as a matter of expediency or of charity. The time to withdraw from this preposterous and dangerous situation has surely come. With every country, situated as ours is, protecting its own interests and building up its own strength in men and in industry, it is our best policy to unite in a firm and aggressive Canadian movement. Mr. Tarte, as we have said, has endeavored to impose the Canadian view upon the politicians with whom he is working. But the jeers with which he has been met; the suggestions of corruption and plunder which are offered with regard to those who think with him; the threats that are made of impending action antagonistic to Canadian progress, announces in terms that all can understand that it is idle to trust Mr. Tarte's colleagues in the future.

"Pressure may compel the retrogressive element to relent for the moment. It may prevent the immediate introduction of the threatened further free trade measures. It may even force concessions here and there to the protective view. But the leaven remains, and stability cannot be expected so long as that element dominates. The Halifax Chronicle and the Toronto Globe call for a straight division on fiscal lines. These official agencies have ordered those who believe in moderate protection, and who object to any further injury to our workmen, and to the interests dependent either directly or indirectly upon industry, to expect nothing but disappointment from the Government as at present constituted. It is an invitation to the industrial forces to get out of the party if any of them are in it; and it must be confessed that the idea is not without merit. That individual enterprise and national progress should remain voluntarily at the mercy of the opponents of both is certainly absurd."

MAIL AND EMPIRE, Oct. 21, 1902:

"Mr. Tarte is a protectionist. He believes that the Liberal-Conservative policy of adequate industrial defence is the proper thing for Canada. When the free traders, led by Mr. Sifton, foreshadowed another instalment of free trade, Mr. Tarte, who, to the knowledge of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had pledged himself to a higher tariff during the last election, came forward and insisted upon the observance of the doctrines as committed to him. A war ensued. The free trade ministers, through their various organs, ridiculed and assailed their colleague.

" Sir Wilfrid has apparently yielded to those of his colleagues who are against a progressive Canadian policy. Mr. Tarte has therefore to step out. The movement will deprive the Government of its most active member, and will indicate, with more certainty than in the past, where the Ministry stands on the question of defending Canada's industrial interests."

#### MAIL AND EMPIRE, Oct. 22, 1902:

The Mail and Empire of Oct. 22, 1902, under the heading, "The Ottawa Crisis; Mr. Tarte's Protection Speeches Lead to His Ejection from Cabinet," published a long editorial, in which it said:

" But, leaving this phase of the difficulty aside, it is clear that, soon after Mr. Tarte embarked upon his campaign, the free trade forces in the Government began to feel that their position was imperilled, and that they would have to fight for their own hand. They put up a vigorous and bitter contest, and have succeeded in suppressing the protective element in the Government and in the party.

" The significance of the ejection of Mr. Tarte lies in the fact that we have a straight repudiation of the policy he has been advocating. Sir Wilfrid, to be sure, endeavors in his letter accepting the enforced resignation, to base his action in calling upon Mr. Tarte to withdraw upon the charge that his late colleague has been speaking without authority, and not upon the policy that has been advocated. But if the policy were acceptable, the advocacy of the policy would be not merely acceptable and excusable, but decidedly welcome. It therefore follows that the dismissal of Mr. Tarte is a declaration against the principle of Canada for the Canadians, which looks to the upbuilding of our industries, the defence of workmen, and the rapid development of the country in all lines of effort. This is the first time that the Government has frankly announced where it stands, and its declaration is so emphatic that no man can misunderstand it."

#### MAIL AND EMPIRE, Oct. 28th, 1902:

" The dramatic episode of last week has given strength to the out-and-out free trade element in the Laurier party. From the far West to the far East the cry is raised that another and a decisive move towards the promised goal must and will soon be effected. Mr. Scott, the member for West Assiniboia, gives the assurance that the industry of the East is to receive no consideration, but, on the contrary, a further instalment of low tariff. The Letellier Club, of Montreal, taking advantage of the recent tragedy, impressed upon the Government the desirability of proceeding along the historic lines of the party in the direction of free trade as promised by the Premier. Mr. Fielding's paper, the Chronicle, of Halifax, sees in

the ejection of Mr. Tarte, a clear-cut division between the two political forces. Mr. Tarte having gone out, the free traders are supreme among the Liberals, and the protectionists are suppressed."

MONTREAL STAR, Oct. 22, 1902:

"But actions speak louder than words, and the fact that the Government has parted with Mr. Tarte rather than even discuss with him for a single day the policy he has been advocating, is extremely significant. The irresistible inference is that the last vestige of protectionism went out of the Cabinet with Mr. Tarte, and that the Government will now feel free to carry out its ante-election pledges. If there are any protectionists left in the Cabinet they are tolerated only upon the condition that they swallow their principles and for any good they may be to the cause of protection, they might as well be members of a deaf and dumb institute."

MONTREAL STAR, Oct. 23rd, 1902:

"That the most active minister has left the Cabinet is important, not merely as an interesting event giving rise to speculation concerning the outgoing's future course, and the effect of his retirement on the strength and the prospects of political parties, but as indicating, probably, the Premier's consent to a policy either of immobility or of retrogression in respect of the tariff. There would be no sense or logic in his objection to Mr. Tarte's demand for tariff revision of a protective nature if he and his Cabinet were intending such revision. Freed of their powerful protectionist colleague, the free traders of the Ministry may carry revision the wrong way. Thus not only are the industries of Canada threatened as at present by the Ministry's inaction, but also newly endangered by the too great probability that Sir Richard, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Sifton and the other free trade doctrinaires in power may endeavor to lessen existing present protection. That we take to be the important matter in connection with Mr. Tarte's retirement to which business men will feel their attention called."

OTTAWA CITIZEN, Oct. 25th, 1902:

"The friends of protection have watched them with apprehension, and the sacrifice of Tarte, the protectionist, at the demand of the free trade element of the Liberal party is conclusive proof that this suspicion and apprehension have been well founded. The courageous action of Mr. Tarte may defer his late colleagues for the present from interfering with the tariff, but the public is satisfied that it is in dangerous hands. From a broad, national standpoint, the Citizen admires and commends the action of Mr. Tarte. That he may be nominally a Liberal is beside the question. He has made a stand on a policy that is still national and with which the future

welfare of Canada is inseparably connected, and the method of his expulsion from the administration, no less than the act itself, is eloquent of the veiled antagonism of his late colleagues towards the views he upholds. We believe that the incident will awaken the people of Canada to the fact that the tariff is not safe in the hands of the Laurier administration, and to the un-wisdom of longer committing such a trust to men whose political sympathies are really antagonistic to a policy they merely tolerate."

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Summarizing the situation, several things are clear:

1. The Conservatives, by formal resolution and by speeches in Parliament, have declared for high protection; for a tariff according to their leader, Mr. R. L. Borden, as high as the United States tariff, which averages over 50 per cent.

2. The Conservative policy is the same as that of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, whose only purpose is to increase, by means of the tariff, the price of all goods they have to sell.

3. The Liberal policy is directly opposed to the policy of protection. The Conservative papers and politicians recognize this and vilify Messrs. Sifton, Fielding and Fisher and other Ministers who have prominently championed the consumers.

4. Support of the Conservatives means support for a policy that will increase the price of all manufactured goods.

5. Support of the Liberals means support for a policy calculated to make necessities low-priced.

6. No matter what individuals may say, the two parties stand distinctly divided on the tariff: The Liberals for low tariff, the Conservatives for high tariff, and any voter who is interested in tariff matters can therefore have no difficulty in expressing his opinion at the poll.

