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WANTED

\*WANTED—TO RENT ON OR BEFORE the first of September next, house with modern conveniences. Kindly write Box 244, Charlottetown.

Want Law And Order in Silesia

PARIS, May 30.—The French Government urges that law and order be restored in Silesia. The arrival of British Battalions has a good effect on the population in invaded region. The Germans are keeping up their operations in Upper Silesia but are waiting for the arrival of the British troops to restore order. The reports of the allied high commissioners are not unanimous.

NAVAL CODE BOOKS.

On every ship in the American navy, the commanding officer and

the second in command are each furnished with a copy of the secret naval code of the government. These books are bound not as ordinary books, in cloth covers, but in heavy metal boxes. The object is to prevent them from falling in the hands of the enemy, for their weight is so great that when thrown into the water they sink immediately, whereas if bound in the usual manner the spreading leaves might keep them afloat long enough to permit a vigilant enemy to pick them up.

These officers are commanded first of all things to throw these books overboard before surrendering their vessels or whenever there is a danger of an enemy getting aboard. The capture of one of these books, it is considered by the naval authorities, would be more disastrous in time of war than the loss of a battleship—Washington Star.

CANADA PASSING THROUGH RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Right Hon. Arthur Meighen Tells of the Abnormal Task Before the People of Canada and the Measures Proposed for its Successful Outcome.

(Continued)

Now, then hon. member from Red Deer says: We have had excellent results here; in the case of industries that had no protection I can show you, he says, just as good results from industries that have had to suffer from free trade conditions. I want to examine that statement for a moment.

Between 1896, when the Liberal party came into power, and 1911, they placed three important articles on the free list—I think I am safe in saying only three. There have been far more important articles put on the free list since, if that fact amounts to anything in the way of argument. They placed three articles on the free list: barbed wire, cream separators and binder twine. As the hon. member for Red Deer told us in such graphic fashion two years ago, he had to satisfy himself with those three articles on the free list; he kept turning the cream separator on platform after platform; he kept fraying the binder twine until his fingers were sore, and kept pulling at the barbed wire until he was badly mutilated in the process. Now he comes and tells us in this House that the binder twine industry has prospered; that instead of being an injury the wiping away of the duty was a benefit to the binder twine industry. Well, the immediate answer would be this: if such is the case, why was not the same thing done with other articles? Why did they not keep right on putting things on the free list? The fact is precisely the opposite—and I may say that I would be only too glad to be interrupted if any hon. gentleman has any fault to find with the figures that I am now going to give; only too glad in this relation as in any other in the course of my address. As regards the binder twine industry, there was a 12 1/2 per cent duty up to 1897. It was reduced to 10 between 1897 and 1898, and then it was abolished. But what happened? We have had in the last twenty-five years 25 industries in that business, and of these 25, some large and some small, 12 have gone into liquidation, 7 have been dismantled and have had to quit business; 3 were burned down and only 3 remain, one of them, I think, the plant mentioned by the hon. member for Red Deer. I industry you are going to exterminate it wholly by putting its product on the free list, but if you have results in all industries such as have followed in this case, what condition would the industrial life of this country be in today? We maintain a very moderate duty on farm implements; it only averages 14.6 today, and we have not 3 but 63 plants in that industry. But what about the 3 binder twine industries which remain? All credit to them for surviving. One, the industry mentioned by my hon. friend, I think, has a factory in Halifax and there is another in Montreal. These plants are engaged mainly in the production of other material which is covered by a duty, the binder twine being manufactured as a partial product. These facts I have from one who, I think, may be looked upon as an authority. There is another of these factories in Brantford; it is excellently managed and has been a fair success. But I think, if the hon. gentleman will inquire, he will find that the reasons for that success are most unusual reasons. He will find that there have been large purchases of raw material on an ascending market and sales at an advance as a result. He will find as well as regards one, if not two of those that survive, that the sworn testimony of the management in the case—I think it is Storey versus—I do not remember who was the defendant, in 1905—was to the effect that they could not have made a dollar under existing conditions in this country, had they not been fortunate enough to make profits in purchases of the raw material. In none have the dividends been continuous; all have had a hard struggle, and one, if not two, are engaged now in the production of other material. That is the production of other material. That is the position today. Because of what was done and on account, as it was stated then, of the United States taking special

advantages to their manufacturers because of their relations with the Philippines, the Government of my hon. friends opposite in 1903 put a bounty on the production of binder twine, and those mills existed up to 1913 because the bounty was on. That bounty, which was paid out of the treasury of Canada, was paid not, surely, in accordance with free trade principles. It was paid though, in order that those industries might survive. Such is the record, and all the while the wholesale price of binder twine has gone up from 7 cents to about 21 cents a pound. In this connection I should like to read an article on this subject published by a man who claims to be something of an authority and who certainly is an observer of affairs in Canada, an author for whom I have respect. The article states: Last year— I think this article was written in 1912 or 1913. The House should remember that the binder twine industry like many another, had advantages from the war. During the war, their American competitors were over supplied with orders. American railways were not managed as well as ours were in the way of traffic, and they were blocked. Great advantages accrued to our industries as a result. But as regards the situation up to the beginning of the war, this is what this authority has said who has made a special study of the subject. I will give his name if I am requested to do so.

Last year, over 527 bushels of grain were tied up in sheaves in Canada. This means that, soon binder twine will be used in this country every year for the harvesting of a billion bushels of grain. When one thinks of the vast acreage in the West still unbroken, it is impossible even to guess at the volume of binder twine to be consumed in Canada in the years to come. Yet, with the existence of such a market, comparatively little of the product is made here. I may say that at the time the duty was taken off, we imported only about 20 per cent of our consumption, but the last year for which I have the figures, we imported over 50 per cent and one year we imported 80 per cent of our consumption. The article continues:

Our needs are really supplied by the United States. Tons and tons of flax fibre, which some day will be perfected as a raw material for the manufacture of binder twine, are going to waste on the prairies every season, all because no one can make profitable use of it in Canada. There is not even the inducement to save this raw material for the purposes of manufacturing. Such a condition exists chiefly because of an unequal competition in the binder twine trade between Canada and the United States. The advantages are with the latter country, whose larger and older and more powerful industries have not only absolutely free access to the Canadian market but also practically monopolize the valuable supplies of raw material in the Philippine islands. Time was, when the greater part of the binder twine business of Canada was carried on by Canadian manufacturers. To-day, an overwhelmingly large share of this business is in the hands of the so-called Harvester Trust, which does not make a pound of twine in Canada, but sends it from mills located across the line.

I could go on reading the article in which the tariff history is given, and what little success has been achieved by the surviving industries is, in this article, attributed to bounties paid out of the treasury of this country.

Mr. CRERAR: Who is the author of the article?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Mr. Norman P. Lambert, now secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. I could pass from one of those classes of goods made free to another; but if I do, this speech will be much longer than it ought to be in a Budget debate.

My hon. friend frequently refers to the cream separator business. After the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) has ceased turning the cream separator, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Creer) took up the task. On platform after platform he has been churning away at those separators. I cannot understand—in fact I am pretty well convinced that the contrary is the fact—what benefit the world has accrued from taking the duty off cream separators. One can scarcely produce any better evidence than that furnished in an article that appeared some time ago in the Regina Leader. If the hon. member for Marquette wants to know what the Regina Leader is, I can tell him that too. That journal deputed one of its staff to find out what the differences in price were between implements in the United States and in Canada. He investigated the matter. Every one knows that you can take a place just to suit you, on the one side of the line or on the other, and you can in that way make a difference in price in favour of whichever country you like. The best case that I have seen presented in regard by way of comparison was presented by Mr. Findlay, manager of the Massey Harris Company. It seemed to be most complete, and I believe it made an impression throughout the West. His figures showed the points where the freight rates were equal and, consequently, the comparison was the fairest that could be made. Well this servant of that newspaper went over, and he brought back figures to show what difference there was between the price a farmer had to pay in Canada and that paid by his more fortunate neighbour, as they put it, across the border. They gave a list of, I think, six or seven articles and they showed the difference in price between the two countries. Will any hon. gentleman in this House be bold enough to suggest what the article was upon which the percentage of difference was the biggest of the whole seven? Well, it was cream separators. The writer apparently did not know that cream separators had been on the free list for many years, so he included them in the list, and he showed that we were paying in this country some \$80 for a cream separator which the Americans paid \$60 for, or, perhaps, the prices are \$90 and \$70 respectively. At all events, the biggest margin of difference proportionate to cost, was in the case of cream separators. That would not indicate that we were very much the better off in point of price, to say nothing of the condition which the industry is in, because of what was done as to the duty on separators.

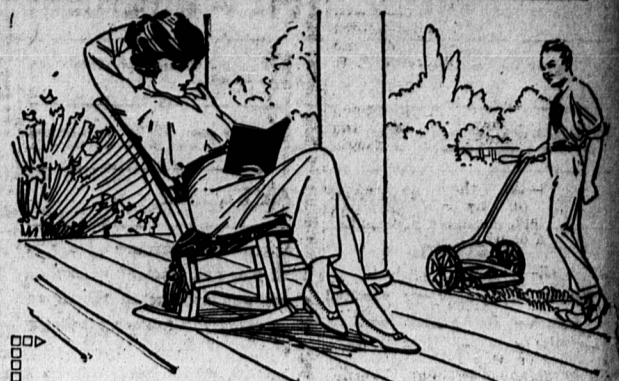
Mr. ROBB: Was this man giving figures for the same make of cream separator in each case? Mr. MEIGHEN: If he were not, he was a bad representative of the Regina Leader, and I do not think the Regina Leader would be so unfair as to quote figures for one make in one country and another make in another country. Hon. gentlemen of the Farmers' party can see, how suspicious hon. gentlemen opposite are toward their newspaper champions in the West.

There is only one more reference that I want to make to the speech of the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark.) I am sorry I cannot admire the logic of the hon. member he is bound at least to have high regard for his enthusiasm. I never knew so fertile an intellect in finding arguments for free trade. He can find one north, south, east or west, up above, down below, or wherever he looks. No matter what the fact that presents itself to him it is an argument for free trade. If it rains, if it shines, if it is light, if it is dark, everything is an argument for free trade. He will take any figures at all, and upside down or downside up they will show that the country with a protective tariff is going to the dogs, and that the

one country that he says has a free trade tariff is prosperous. He told us that Great Britain was going strongly ahead now, and that we, unfortunately, were in a bad position. Why, he said, last March our trade went down by \$100,000,000 and his hair almost turned white at the prospect before this country, when we, actually had such a diminution in trade in one month. I asked him later for the corresponding figures for Great Britain, and also asked him to state how our entire year's figures compared with those of the year before, and how our trade for the year compared in its progress with the progress of trade in Britain. But he told me that I would have to take whatever figures he had.

Well now, our trade in March did not go down \$100,000,000. Our trade did go down in the month of March over the year before; I do not know a country in the world whose trade did not, and everything in this world is relative. Our trade went down by \$78,000,000 odd in March, export and imports added together. But what was the falling off in British trade? British trade in the month of March last went down from £307,000,000 in the March previous to £169,000,000; that is to say, by £138,000,000, or about \$600,000,000 in one month. Of course, their trade is larger than ours, they are a bigger country than we are; but while their trade went down by only 32 per cent. And the hon. gentleman finds in our loss of 32 per cent in March a reason for dismay and despair and a reversal of policy, and in the British loss of 42 per cent he finds nothing but cause for good cheer.

I desire now to devote a little time to this amendment presented by the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's. He has not been in the House very much since he moved the amendment—I am not sure that we ought to criticize his judgment in that regard. One is at least interested to know, if he cannot ascertain why the Liberal tariff policy is not moved, why at least the amendment of last year is not here. Was it the debate that took place in caucus that resulted in hon. gentlemen opposite throwing over last year's amendment? What was the fight about? What was wrong with it? Surely they could stay with an amendment for twelve months! Or is twelve months too long to abide by a policy? Last year's amendment called for a reduction of duties. It demanded that we cut down duties in order to get lower living costs, and in order to get cheaper instruments of production. Well, here is an amendment that does not call for any reduction at all. I wonder if the hon. members of the Agrarian party really saw that—that after it had been trimmed and varnished up by hon. gentlemen opposite, they had been lined up behind an amendment that did not call for a reduction on anything. They were told they had to be satisfied with that, and must tell the farmers that that was all they could get. Last year's amendment did call for a reduction. This year all they do is to express regret that the Government did not propose reductions. Well, I suppose they do regret it; they know what would happen any government that did; they know the spirit this country is in towards any tearing down of its tariff barriers at this time. They know the whole volume of wisdom there would be, in advance of American legislation, in the face of French legislation; in the face of Belgian legislation, in the face of Italian legislation, in the face of Australian legislation, in the face of British legislation, raising tariff barriers against this country—they know what the country would think of us if under these circumstances we started to tear our tariff barriers down. Therefore, because they would like to be



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