

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Man. A. A. Bartlett, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. R. Currie, Associate Editor.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1920

CANADIAN TRADE

The monthly commercial letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, referring to Canada's imports and exports for the twelve months ending in May last, points out that the principal increases in our imports are in chocolate, motor cars, tobacco, sugar, cotton and wool. It is noticeable, says the letter, that imports of meats and foodstuffs—typical products of the dominion—have increased. For the year ended in May while there was a decline in exports our imports increased 38 per cent.

During the three year period ending in May last Canada's exports to the United States amounted to \$1,335,000,000 while imports from that country amounted to \$2,312,000,000 leaving an adverse balance of \$976,460,000. This is matter for serious consideration and a glance at the articles mentioned above shows that our purchases are very largely of luxuries. Extravagance is very largely responsible for our adverse trade balance.

A noteworthy feature of the letter of the Bank of Commerce is the reference to the increase in the number of live animals exported. "Evidently", it says, "the United States no longer produces sufficient live stock for its own consumption, so that the outlook for a steadily extending market for Canadian live stock is very bright."

With the increasing urban population in the United States it is not probable that there shall be any perceptible falling off in their demand for live cattle. This is at least one commodity which they are not likely to "dump" upon us and there is every prospect that there will for a long time to come be a good demand there for Canadian cattle. There has probably never been a more favorable time in Canada for the breeding of cattle and we trust our farmers will see it that way and take advantage of it.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION

The situation in Europe today is little if any less threatening than it was immediately before the breaking out of the great conflagration in 1914. Just what strength the Bolsheviks of Russia are able to put in the field we have no means of estimating; we only know that the uncounted millions of people and the untold wealth of that country are available to any leaders that may arise among them. The fact that these millions and this wealth is not immediately available counts for little; we know what organization and enthusiasm did in 1914, 15 and 16 for the Allied countries and we know that in these days of rapid progress raw material is very soon converted into effective energy. The unsettled and antagonistic attitude of many parts of Eastern Europe adds to the uncertainty of the Russian situation.

Great Britain and France are committed to interfere on behalf of Poland not so much to save Poland as to save Europe. That neither Great Britain nor France is anxious for war goes without saying but from the present outlook it is difficult to see how they can avoid it. Our dispatches of the past few days are anything but reassuring and developments will be anxiously looked for. In the meantime we have the assurance that France and England are in thorough accord and that Lloyd George and Millerand are at least as capable of handling a difficult situation as any two other men in Europe.

THE HABIT OF EXTRAVAGANCE

Mr. D. B. Hanna made the statement the other day that eighty cents out of every dollar earned by Canadian Railways was paid out in wages to employees and that it cost more than a dollar to earn a dollar on the railway.

The history of the railway is the history of practically every other enterprise with the difference that in the case of very many of the latter the price of the product is increased to a figure that leaves quite a margin of profit for the employer. The employee receives an exorbitant wage; the employer squares himself by raising the price and the consumer pays both wages and profit.

The high wages of the past few years and the high prices received for commodities, whether products of the farm or of the factory, have led us into extravagant ways. The article that costs three or four times as much today as it did before the war is as readily bought as when the price was well within the income. In the last analysis the high cost of living is the result of extravagance; extravagance feeds the demand for the more expensive commodities; the demand enables the producer to pay a higher wage; the higher wage compels the producer to charge a higher price; the higher price is paid by extravagance—and there we have the circle complete. Where will it end? What is the remedy?

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Patriot during a lucid interval expresses appreciation of and agreement with a paragraph in an editorial in yesterday's Guardian under the caption "Cheer Up and Get Together." The "cheer up" section appeals to its buoyancy but what was the matter with the "Get Together" end of it? Are the conditions too hard?

CURRENT COMMENT

A half baked school master whose knowledge of word composition extended little beyond the monosyllable, when his scholar commenced spelling out a word which neither of them understood, would at once and in every case pronounce it "Jerusalem." The Patriot, has similarly caught up a big word familiar in the press of the day, and absolutely without knowledge of what it means, but because it looks big and has an unwholesome reputation, applies it indiscriminately and regardless of adaptability when it wants to give vent to its anger. "Bolshevism" is the newly captured favourite which it so noisily hugs to its bosom, and until it has almost become an object of daily worship. You will find it several times repeated in one editorial, and none of its articles are considered complete without inclusion. Surely there are some educated men in the Liberal ranks who, to save the party from ridicule, would be willing to instruct the staff, if they are capable of learning, as to the meaning of the words it so frequently uses, and save it from appearing as a bigger nonentity than nature originally intended.

It would be another good move if some of the truth loving Liberals, would get together and insist upon the Patriot publishing at least one article a week, or perhaps once a month by way of beginning, in which its favourite element of untruth would be totally eliminated. We know the task would be difficult where the disease by so long usage has become chronic, but with outside help it would not be impossible. It should at least be able to cut out those statements manufactured absolutely from imagination. For instance in its editorial of Friday, on the income tax, it says the Conservatives "allowed many of the wealthy men to go clear, BUT TOOK GOOD CARE TO SEE THAT THE MAN OF SMALL PAID UP TO THE HILT." There is not a small salaried or poor man in the province who does not personally know this statement to be an undiluted falsehood. Then it says "THE ACT UNDER WHICH THE ASSESSMENT WAS MADE (1919) WAS PASSED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT." This too, is false. THE INCOME TAX ACT WAS PASSED BY THE LIBERALS LONG BEFORE THE CONSERVATIVES CAME IN POWER. The situation is becoming so revolting to the public, that unless some honest men are found in the party, who will demand a halt to these exaggerations and direct untruths, they will bury themselves in disgrace. Surely they could produce say one truthful article a week. That would not be much.

In a former Comment, we said, and we now repeat, that "they have not dared to lay hands upon a single dollar and say that it was dishonestly or improperly expended by the Arsenal Government." Under the caption, "At Their Own Peril," Tuesday's Patriot, makes some bold threats and covert insinuations.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

LIFE

Between the budding and the falling leaf Stretch happy skies; With colors and sweet cries Of mating birds in uplands and in glades The world is rife. Then on a sudden all the music dies, The color fades, How fugitive and brief Is mortal life Between the budding and the falling leaf! O short-breathed music, dying on the tongue Ere half to mystic canticle be sung! Who, if 'twere his to choose, would know again The bitter sweetness of the lost refrain, Its rapture and its pain? Though I be shut in darkness and become Insentient dust blown idly here and there, I hold oblivion a scant price to pay For having once had held against my eye Life's brimming cup of hydromel and rue For having once drawn woman's holy love And a child's kiss, for a little space Been boon company to the Day and Night, Fed on the odors of the Summer dawn, And folded in the beauty of the stars. Dear Lord, though I be changed to senseless clay, And serve the potter as he turns his wheel, I thank thee for the gracious gift of tears! Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

tions, hinting at "exposures" of "dishonestly or improperly" expended money by the Arsenal Government, and the price at which they fix their silence is, that the Guardian will cease from troubling them, that they may carry out their schemes in peace. Let us make it plain to the Patriot and to the Government that we are not to be bribed, bullied or intimidated by them or any of their number. And we are equally sure that ex-Premier Arsenault, and his two colleagues in the Public Works and Agricultural departments, had no dishonest transactions which they would permit much less wish us to compound with the Government or its organs. The very suggestion of such a compromise by the Liberal daily smacks of the worst kind of corruption, and such as should damn the suggestors in the estimation of all honest people. No three cleaners or more upright men ever administered a public service than the gentlemen presiding over these departments and if the Patriot is anxious for genuine trouble they can have it by putting their under-thrust insinuations of dishonesty into a more concrete and negotiable form. In the meantime the Guardian will continue in its duty to the public to condemn the wrong and uphold the good as it has hitherto done.

Then the evening manipulator gets into the muddling of figures again in its usual way. The partial statement of figures, prepared under special direction last September, is once more conscripted into service. Why fear the whole truth so much that nothing but these partial one sided statements are ever permitted to see the light of day? Or if fractional transactions are decisive of the whole, why not eliminate the receipts in full, and charge up only the expenditure? It would make an enormously larger deficit, on paper, and would be just about as reliable as what they are accustomed to dish out. If His Worship the Mayor should ask our City Clerk for a statement of moneys received and paid out at the present date, what kind of a showing would it make? It would probably show an apparent deficit of nearly \$100,000 in this small city. And why? Because most of the year's expenses have been provided for, while comparatively few of the taxes have been received as yet. This is the camouflage they constantly put up. And to further deceive, they say,—"The Guardian speaks about the Provincial Auditor's report. WELL HERE IS THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR'S REPORT." How cunning. They know full well that this is not the report asked for. It is the COMPLETE REPORT, SWORN TO BEFORE THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE that the Guardian and the public want.

Perhaps in no instance is there more satisfactory evidence of most shameless profiteering and manipulation to the general consumer, than in the matter of sugar. The enormous dividends declared and the advancing prices of stock in sugar companies indicate that huge fortunes have been squeezed from the consuming public by these manipulations. The claim that the inordinately high prices were responsive to the law of supply and demand can not be sustained. Had this law been allowed free course sugar would never have gone to much above one half the present figure. Reliable computations show the world's supply to be ample for all requirements. Large speculators however by cornering immense quantities, principally of the raw supplies, have been enabled to hold off sufficient of these to create scarcity in certain centres of commerce, enabling them to jack prices up to where they are today.

But reliable advices indicate a turn in the tide at a not too distant date. Already there are indications of a distinct uneasiness on the part of large sugar holders to unload. Arbuckle Bros., one of the largest refining concerns in New York last week reduced their stock of raw sugar 3 cents a pound. Raw sugars are reported as declining since last May, and prices for the raw article are quoted at 16.55 as compared with 23.50 two months ago. Large stocks of raw sugars held in Porto Rico because of strikes are now coming forward, and has tended to overload the market. In quite a number of cases the raw product is unsaleable except upon price concessions, speculating manipulators being more anxious to get clear of than to increase the supplies on hand. Important amongst the influences producing this easier situation is that the European war countries formerly large buyers are now exporting sugar westward in unexpected liberal quantities. Lower prices are predicted from many sources.

Under the heading "Increased Cost of Staple Foodstuffs," the

Superb Furs Exquisitely Finished Displayed At Patons

Patons Ltd. have just opened a shipment of furs sent them on approval, the order having been cancelled when the luxury tax was levied. These furs, a comprehensive showing of the fur styles for the coming season, will be returned within a short time, so the ladies of Charlottetown, and men, too, are invited to call and see them within the next few days. A glance at Paton's windows is but an index of the wonderful range in the main store, where numerous furs in all colors, all varieties, and wonderfully attractive styles are shown; among them mink, beaver, fox, lynx, opossum, Hudson seal, etc. Come in and see the showing arranged for your convenience and inspection; in fact such a rivishing display of beautiful furs was never surpassed, and in face of the high prices of the fur market, never so cheap as Paton's offer.

In small furs the cape effect is very prominent, with beautiful linings, tassels, etc., and in some instances finished off with tails. Natural red fox neckpieces are priced at \$40; Patch \$25; Coon \$65, with muffs to match. One ex-

Patriot gives some figures comparing the cost of sugar, flour and molasses in June 1919 with the prices prevailing in June 1920, and states that, "In a number of articles the Patriot gave as one of the reasons why the government were compelled to increase taxation was the increased cost of food stuffs, especially for the Hospital for the Insane." We must first point out, THAT AT THE TIME THE BELL GOVERNMENT TAX ACT WAS CONCEIVED which was in February last, THESE ADVANCES HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. So that this little excuse will not upon its face go down. Its figures also have rather an extravagant appearance, and are worked out by the ingenious methods adopted in creating the celebrated deficit. For instance, to solve its problem in proportion, IT PROPOSES ONE CAR OF SUGAR AND TWO CARS OF MOLASSES TO ONE CAR OF FLOUR. Most users of these commodities would consider that that car of flour would be pretty well sweetened at this rate. Another problem is how an institution with about 400 inmates could consume fifty puncheons of molasses (two I. C. R. cars) and one hundred barrels of sugar in a season. The fact is that the increased price of flour is small and it was necessary to dump in an excessive amount of sugar and molasses to bring up the average cost, AND SUGAR COAT THE PILL FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

But the more serious aspect of the case is in the suggestion by the Patriot, THAT THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOW PAYING THESE ADVANCED PRICES. If this is the case then an indignant people would be justified in extreme measure for relieving the country of such incapable management. Not within the last quarter of a century, has such a state of affairs existed. Past governments, Conservative and Liberal alike, have always contracted for the year's supply of staple provision in the month of December, and contractors have placed their orders in advance for goods to cover their contracts. Practically the whole of the advance in cost to which the Patriot refers has taken place since last December, and if the government have failed to place these contracts as the custom has been, then the neglect is absolutely inexcusable. Their boast in opposition days was that all goods would be bought by tender, and if for purposes of lobby, that their friends might "come to the crib and get their fill" they have done this, then it is a shameful waste of public money.

The Toronto Globe, St. John Telegraph and other Liberal papers are harping upon the significance of the Nova Scotia elections, in relation to the federal prospects, one of them remarking that "It is a warning which Hon. Mr. Meighen cannot ignore, and they, as well as their opponents, will recognize it as a reflection of Liberal strength in the next election." Well, let us see. Sir John MacDonal, Conservative, repeatedly carried the Dominion elections when Fielding ruled Nova Scotia, Blair in New Brunswick, Mercier in Quebec, Mowat in Ontario, Greenaway in Manitoba, the Northwest provinces not then established, all Liberal governments, with only P. E. Island and British Columbia in the Conservative ranks. Then later Sir Wilfrid Laurier carried several elections, with Hazen ruling in New Brunswick, Parent in Quebec, Whitney in Ontario, Roblin in Manitoba, Hauzain in the Territories, Duns-

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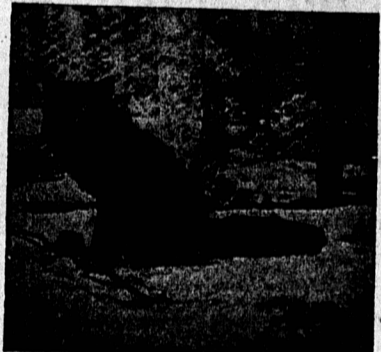
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