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TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1921

EMERGENCY TARIFF BILL

The emergency tariff bill, originally introduced in the United States Congress as the Fordney Bill, is now almost certain to go through without much, if any, change, if it has not already been passed. Our readers will be interested in knowing what effort his bill will have upon agricultural interests in this province. The following items selected from a long list will give an idea. The bill proposes to put an import duty on cattle, now admitted free, of 30 per cent; on sheep over a year old, \$2.00 each; on sheep under one year old, \$1.00; wheat 40 cents or 35 cents per bushel; wheat flour 20 per cent; potatoes 25 cents per bushel; fresh frozen meats 2-1/2 cents; bacon 8 cents; fresh cream 5 cents a gallon. All these commodities are now being admitted free into the United States.

We have been large shippers of practically all these commodities into the United States and when there was little or no demand in our own Canadian markets we found it very convenient to ship across the border. It was a convenience but a convenience that cost us very dearly for the United States shipped into Canada many thousands of dollars worth of the hundred we shipped them. We have gained nothing from our trade with the United States and we have lost much by it.

The articles above enumerated were included also in the reciprocity agreement, on which the Laurier Government went on the rock in 1911. They were all to be admitted free into the United States on condition that we should admit them free into Canada. This would have happened our agricultural products had the reciprocity pact been consummated. It would not be difficult to say; we would simply have been flooded with American produce of all kinds in our own markets. As it is now they are able to almost swamp us even with our light duty against them.

Another thing that we generally forget is that the pact entered into at the time, conditional upon its being accepted by Canada, was one which could be broken off at any time by the United States or by Canada or that is, whenever the United States found it to their disadvantage to have Canadian produce admitted to their markets they could rescind the agreement.

The correspondence that passed between Hon. W. S. Fielding and Mr. Patterson, the Canadian delegates, and Secretary Knox of Washington contained the following provision: "It is agreed that the desired tariff changes shall not take the formal shape of a treaty, but that the Governments of the two countries will use their utmost efforts to bring about such changes by concurrent legislation at Washington and Ottawa." Then followed this significant sentence "It is distinctly understood that we do not attempt to bind for the future the action of the United States Congress or the Parliament of Canada, but that each of these authorities shall be absolutely free to make any change of tariff, policy, or of any other matter covered by the present arrangement that may be deemed expedient."

Mr. Fielding has introduced the reciprocity pact again and at the time of all others when it will do the most harm to Canada. If we are so anxious to get our agricultural produce into the United States is it not a warning to the farmers of that country that our produce will reduce the price of theirs? The American farmer naturally concludes that he will have a better home market if he is protected against foreign competition

and he is going to stand by the emergency bill. The same is true of Canada. We want protection against competition.

DRIFTING

The natural tendency of the human race is to revert to go back. This tendency is confined to plants as well as animal life, that is to those plants and animals that have been taken out of their original environment and "civilized" or made adaptable to man's needs. Such plants and animals if left to themselves for a few years or for a few successive generations will revert to their original wildness.

The human race has travelled far from its original savagery. It has come up through the ages by struggle against its natural tendencies, and is holding by sheer effort each step it has climbed. For more thousands of years than we can compute the race has been slowly struggling upward, often times slipping backward, and often times losing its grip and starting over again but always moving upward. We of the twentieth century, the heirs of all the ages, have reached a place that is in many respects higher than any attained to in the past ages. In material progress we have outstripped all that have preceded us. Physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually it may well be doubted that we have held our own. As in the ages gone by we have our outstanding figures towering above their fellows and through their efforts and example of these we are slowly advancing. Yet we lack in many things. The proportion of wickedness in the world is probably as great as it ever was; the proportion of criminality is as great; human selfishness is as dominating as in any previous age. These conditions are admitted, yet in the face of all this prevalence of evil science teaches us that much of the criminality, much of the misery resulting from disease or other causes is preventable. Are we using the preventions? A boy is arrested and placed in prison; a young man is brought to the scaffold. What has science done for these criminals? Were they born with the curse of criminality indelibly stamped on the brain by the accidental contour of the head? Were they criminals before their birth through the wickedness of their parents or far back ancestors? Were they "free-born" as far as criminal taint was concerned and did they acquire their criminality through environment? These are questions which have only been partially answered but the partial answer reveals the fact that criminality may be a matter of brain shape, of heredity of environment, or of all these combined and very largely preventable.

In this twentieth century of ours, with its scientific research, its universities, its churches, its schools, its christian homes, it is not to our credit that we simply arrest the criminal and imprison or execute him, as the law demands according to the degree of his apparent guilt, and let the matter go at that. The community must share to a very large extent the guilt of the ordinary criminal. There is some cause for the criminal impulse or instinct or training any it is the part of the community to find it out and apply the remedy before a life is ruined. We are looking after all our material interests; we let nothing go to waste except the human material and that is being allowed to drift. If we paid as little attention to our domestic animals as we generally do to the human family, they would within a few generations have reverted to their original wildness. We are not fighting crime and the causes of crime as we ought to be; we are only punishing it.

Current Comment

We wish to express our warm appreciation of the many kind words and complimentary references, received from staunch Liberals as well as Conservatives, in commendation of the good work being done in the people's interest, more particularly in this column. This friendly and very general spirit of approval is becoming more increasingly pronounced, due in all probability to the special powerful influence it has exercised upon those now in very brief control of the affairs of the province. It is a source of supreme gratification to us to know that the public at large are behind us, and that our humble efforts to protect the rights of the taxpayers and the people of the country are receiving so splendid and so general a recognition. It is indeed an encouragement to be receiving congratulations from political opponents and approving messages from the country, all highly eulogistic of past performances and with the insistent appeal to have no "slow down" and to "keep on with the good work." There are many evidences that our influence upon both legislation and the conduct of government has been great. While in truth our affairs of state are in a deplorable condition even at best, it is equally evident that they are not as bad as they would have been, if with an unbridled hand and unchecked by the Guardian the Government were permitted to run an unchallenged course.

A new prodigy of finance has arisen behind the horizon of government in the person of Mr. A. C. Saunders, member for the second district of Prince. His accomplishment in figures reminds us of the deluge, from which there is a watching from the windows of the ark for the return of the dove with its olive branch to indicate that land has been found. With a certainty he produced figures in such volume, and in so many countless phases as to leave the Legislature in a state of bewilderment as to whether they were actually in a provincial legislature, or in the financial department of the world's Peace Conference battling with the costs of the war and the questions of reparation. While there are some members of the house with a splendid capacity for juggling with figures they must all now take off the hat and step down and out, resigning their crowns to this newly developed wizard of finance. As to understanding what he was driving at, that was beyond the power of mortal ken, or at least beyond that of the best in our local House, in fact there is ample ground for supposing that he didn't even himself understand his own figures. At the outset he did not appear to be conscious of the fact that there are twelve months in a year, and that the fiscal year in this province consists of twelve months ENDING ON THE 31st OF DECEMBER in each year.

Or, if conscious that a year contained twelve months, he too like those behind him were in mortal dread of the transactions of the last four months which, by the most serious of misfortune, were under the control of the manipu-

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. L'Esperance IN FLANDERS' FIELDS

In Flanders' fields the poppies grow Beneath the crosses, row on row. That mark our place. While in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved, and were loved—and now we lie In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe. To you, from falling hands, we throw The torch. Be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep, through poppies grow In Flanders' fields.

—Col John McCrae. OPPORTUNITY I expect to pass through this life but once. If therefore there is any kindness I can show, or any good I can do to any fellow-being, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again. A. B. Hegeman

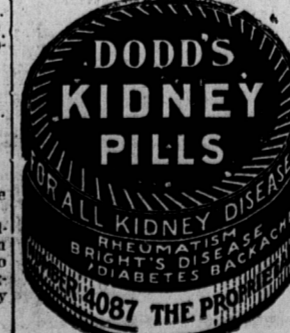
ting aggregation. And because the transactions of those four months will not stand inquiring into, like the fable of the ostrich, Mr. Saunders hides his head in the sand, that their soul-racking indictments may not penetrate his beclouded vision. For be it known that in that four months that the Bell carnival of spending commenced and that notwithstanding that the work season was over AND ALL THE YEARS SUPPLIES purchased by their predecessors, they succeeded in getting away with the unparalleled amount of about \$170,000 MORE THAN THE ARSENAULT OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT EVER MANAGED TO SPEND IN ANY PERIOD OF OUR HISTORY, IN THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME. So keen were they on spending at this time that they actually paid the teachers a month more of salary than was due, and so urgent the necessity for creating a deceptive balance against their defeated opponents that they advertised far and wide for unrepresented accounts so that not a cent of possible expenditure might escape. Mr. Saunders had no such advertisement to point to in the year just closed, nor amongst his labyrinth of figures do we find a reference to those UNPRESENTED BILLS the extent of which can only be guessed by those of the inner circle.

If the Bell Government have a surplus, it must surely be for a defensible amount, or if a deficit it must surely be for a sum to be clearly and distinctly understood. We have so many of those surpluses claimed by the different members on the Government side that we are at a loss to know which to hang our hat upon, OR WHICH, IF ANY, THEY ARE WILLING TO STAND BY. The Premier, in his debate on the address, claimed two, one of \$49,000 and the other of the more modest sum of about \$3,000. Mr. Saunders by many round-about deductions produces varying amounts, in quantity and flavor and distillate, like the beverages from the magician's bottle, to suit the different tastes of the financial epicures on the government side of the House. His figures as we before remarked are so varied and vague in character that he would scarcely pretend to understand them himself, and we do not propose the Joseph or Daniel feat of interpreting either his dreams or hieroglyphics, but will take the liberty of touching a few of them that have been dished up in the front page of the Patriot.

There is at least one generally recognized system of accounting, and that is that the balance shown by one method of computation must agree with that produced by another. If the balances in both cases fail to agree, then one of them of an absolute certainty is incorrect. In Mr. Saunders' boxing of the financial compass these balances are scattered around with such varied confusion, with so many starting and ending points in the matter of dates as would puzzle the solvers of the Egyptian Sphinx enigma. He was particularly voluble on the Bell Government's "Reduction of Liability." In one case he had it figured down to \$119,193.77. In the next instance he became more moderate and developed a second dose making the sum of \$97,082.03. Then in his third dive at it, acting we presume upon the principle of

The Old Gardener Says

If you find it difficult to grow cabbages on account of club root try this simple plan to get rid of the trouble. Put a heaping teaspoonful of tobacco dust in the bottom of each hole where the plants are to be set. Experiments have shown that tobacco dust is extremely effective in keeping away club root. Of course you will not make the mistake of setting out your cabbages where cabbages or any other member of the family, like cauliflower or Brussels sprouts, were grown last



Spring's Crowning Glory A Fetching New Hat. With the first breeze of Spring the mind turned to a new hat—but now that the sunshine is here for good a new hat is imperative. Our milliners are ready to fill your order, with the latest Canadian and American models for tailor or dress wear, for the mother, daughter or kiddies. THE FINAL TOUCH—THE VEIL. Meshes that enhance beauty—meshes that soften facial lines—meshes that give the desired privacy. Marvellous how much a thin Veil can do and be. New kinds—so original in effects—so smart. You're sure to find just the sort you like or need. BRIGHT COLORS PREDOMINATE THIS YEAR. The robin redbreast has put on his new jacket; the blue-bird is brilliant again; but, first of all in the galaxy of beauty are Miss and Madam "P. E. Islander"—blooming girls and radiant woman who this Spring are doing their shopping at Patons. SILK PETTICOATS WITH NEW ATTRACTIVENESS. New Spring Styles, as to silks, as to shapes, as to trimmings, as to weight. Taffetas, jerseys, satins—in colorings to meet the requirements of the new fashions. And besides—the new prices are lower. THE CORSET THAT IS, BUT IS NOT. Such is the fashionable accessory that must support both gown and body, but must not detract one iota from the graceful upliveness of the wearer. The new modes were designed with that thought; selected and brought here for that service. The fitting is most important of all, and for that depend upon us completely. UNDERWEAR COMFORT FOR LOVELY SPRING DAYS. What a pity to fail to enjoy the finest days of the year because one hasn't ready the light-weight Underwear, to change with the thermometer. Here are the best kinds for now and the near future. PATONS LTD.

MASTER MASON PLUG SMOKING TOBACCO. "large discounts for cash," he got down to the mean little sum of \$22,612.34. This he claimed finally for the Bell Government as a triumph of financing, forgetful at the same time that over \$19,000 of this amount was INTEREST ON THE SINKING FUNDS HANDED OVER TO THEM BY THE ARSENAULT GOVERNMENT. In like manner he varies his Conservative increases of liabilities from \$135,722.57 up to \$237,212.30, and not one of them correct. Perhaps the most telling indictment against the Bell Government's financing was embodied in these words which in an unconscious moment he let slip to his hearers. It was in full accord with the claim so often put forward by the Guardian and the Opposition. His words were: "WHEN THE TRUE CONDITIONS OF THE FINANCES ARE REVEALED." What an admission, and when is this revelation going to be made? Mr. Saunders added "AS WE PROPOSE DOING." His own statements failed to do this but left them more muddled than ever, and it is this revelation that the country is asking for. And in closing Mr. Saunders, who has a unique record or reputation as a challenger has issued his defiance to all opposing forces to face him in the Market Hall in a discussion of the muddled heap of stuff and figures which he so proudly fathered on this occasion. While he exhibits deficiency in some forms of humor, he seems at least to appreciate the taste of Charlotte town theatre goes for the farcical in comedy and burlesque.

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