

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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OFF OR ON, WHICH?

When Premier Meighen, in discussing the tariff question, declared that Mr. MacKenzie King should say whether he was "on or off the Liberal platform," he phrased the Liberal leader's position very aptly and the large audience was not slow in expressing its appreciation of the remark. The men and women listening to Mr. Meighen both in the Market Hall and the Prince Edward were of the average Canadian intelligence. The majority of them had heard Mr. MacKenzie King only a few nights before but not one who heard him could tell whether he was "on or off the Liberal platform." Nothing appeals to an audience of ordinary intelligence like straightforward truth; nothing repels like evasion and equivocation and the thing that killed Mr. MacKenzie King in Charlottetown—and his audiences were all coldly unsympathetic—was his evasion of real issues and his transparent attempts to conceal from his audience his real position.

With the Liberal platform in his hand and evidently believing his audience to be sufficiently ignorant not to see his drift, he extolled the Liberal platform as the deliberate expression of the combined wisdom of all classes and conditions of Liberals from the Atlantic to the Pacific and then proceeded to show that he was not standing upon it while he supposed his hearers were ignorant enough to believe he was on it with both feet.

The Liberal platform pledges the party to the admission free of duty of agricultural implements, the raw material which enters into their manufacture; the admission free of duty of all principal foodstuffs and the raw material out of which they are made. Mr. MacKenzie King did not mention this fact, no doubt hoping they knew nothing about it but proceeded to tell them that he was NOT in favor of the free importation of these but he was in favor of reducing the duty to the lowest possible figure!

When he told them that the Liberal policy was a "tariff for revenue" he was talking arrant nonsense. As Premier Meighen well said, every tariff is a tariff for revenue. When Mr. King said the Liberal tariff was intended to be in the interests of producer and consumer, of importer and exporter, would reduce the cost of living and reduce taxation, he knew, and the audience knew he was talking nonsense and trying to catch votes.

Too often in this province, and once within easy reach of the shortest memory, our people have been snared by appeals to the ignorant, not because they are ignorant but because they believe that men in responsible public positions do not wilfully and purposely misrepresent. They were deceived once, to go no farther back than our last provincial election; Mr. MacKenzie King has attempted a similar line; will they be misled again?

Before election day comes round, and it is not far distant, the electors should demand to know whether the leaders are on or off the platform upon which they expect support. The men who pretend to stand on a platform while they are clearly standing elsewhere are trying to delude the people. Mr. King left this impression; no one knows whether he is on or off it. Mr. Meighen, from the first of the campaign has left no doubt as to where he stands and why.

DR. ROSS AND PROTECTION

Dr. Alexander Ross's letter, elsewhere in this issue, is interesting and well worthy of perusal. The doctor is a well known Liberal and

being one of our most intelligent citizens, his views on tariff matters should carry considerable weight. That he is a strong believer in the principle of protection is clearly evident in his letter. The fact that he would increase our present average tariff of about 22 1/2 per cent to fifty will not give much comfort to the MacKenzie King advocates of "tariff revision downwards." He is an evident believer in the justice of the Canadian debt created for war purposes and, like a true patriot, believes the tariff should be so framed as to provide a sufficient revenue for its ultimate liquidation.

Answering the argument that a protective tariff tends to tax the consumer for the benefit of the manufacturer, he is evidently of the opinion that this occurs only in the case of mergers taking place among manufacturers of similar articles who combine to hold up prices as against the consumer. There is some foundation for such an argument but it is a difficulty that no system of duties could be compiled to overcome. Fortunately, however, Canada has not been cursed with such mergers except to a very limited extent and for which there is little cause for complaint. All the corporations in Canada worthy of the appellation "mergers" or combines were established during the Laurier regime and have been in existence since and the consumer has had little cause to fear from their operations.

THE PATRIOT'S WRATH

The Patriot in four columns of editorial in its yesterday's issue expresses with a modified display of capital letters its jealousy and spleen over the magnificent reception accorded to Prime Minister Meighen at Georgetown, Charlottetown and Summerside, and worst of all the complete demolition of the windy structure erected by Mr. MacKenzie King. The four column editorial in its yesterday's issue has appeared in various forms in that paper on many occasions and the oftener repeated the less effective it becomes. We leave the Patriot's vapourings to its readers. We do not blame the Patriot, few could have stood the grueling castigation which it and its party received at the hands of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. More Liberals severed their allegiance to the MacKenzie King party on Monday night than has occurred in a long time; the Patriot knows it and that is what has aroused its wrath.

FREE TRADE

"Free agricultural implements" sounds good till the other edge of the knife in the Liberal policy is presented, namely free meat, free fish, free hogs, free cattle, free grain, free butter, free eggs, etc., is presented. The importation of these latter free of duty into our little Canadian market is a horse of another color. Yet this is what the Liberal platform demands and what the Patriot insists upon. What do the farmers and the fishermen think of it?

EDITORIAL NOTES

If we made at home half the goods we import from the United States, which are of a class or kind capable of being produced here, no Canadian workman would be out of work.

And how did Leader Crerar react to the announcement of a general election? Why, before the cock could crow twice, he had denied Free Trade, his master, thrice.—Ex.

Current Comment

The Hon. Mackenzie King had much to say upon the question of debt and taxation in which he displayed either a dense ignorance, or else a purpose to deliberately deceive. As he is man above the ordinary in intelligence, we must set aside the plea of ignorance in his defense, and attribute it to "chicanery" and deception. In either case, neither the ignorant nor the deceptive is fit to govern Canada. Mr. King correctly showed the annual expenditure of the country to be nearly or about five hundred and sixty millions. Dividing this into an alleged population of nine millions, he showed this to be an amount per head of \$62, or \$310 for a family of five. He then attempted to elaborate this into a tax UPON THE INCOME AND EARNINGS OF THE PEOPLE, and, although not in direct language, Bell like, he sought to impress them that they would be relieved of this if they elected himself and the Liberal party to power. Now unless Mr. King is absolutely incapable of understanding business problems, he could not be ignorant of the fact that Canada's expenditure IS NOT, AS HE PUTS IT, A TAX UPON THE INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS OR INCOMES OF THE PEOPLE. Nor, and he should have been honest enough to so state it, does the whole amount come out of the pockets of the people of Canada.

To illustrate this last point; the postal and carrying service of Canada is international. The British merchant importing his teas, coffee, rice and other oriental products from China, Japan, and other trans-Pacific countries, via Vancouver, right across our continent, en route to Britain, pays every dollar of that freight and transport and not one red cent of this comes out of the taxpayers of this country. This is also true of the Asiatic-European postal service passing over the same route; it too is paid for by those outside countries, and is both directly and indirectly quite a considerable proportion of the income of the Government which Mr. King so speciously misrepresents. More than this, our own manufacturers, selling their millions of dollars of their wares, and our miners and farmers and fishermen selling billions of dollars in the aggregate of their products to foreign countries, add freight, postal and all carrying charges to the cost of the goods. EVERY CENT OF WHICH IS PAID BY THE PURCHASER ABROAD. And yet Mr. King in his "chicanery" has the boldness to declare that these revenues are a charge upon the earnings and incomes of the individual citizens of Canada.

Then again, if he knew the difference between legitimate business expense and taxation upon individual earnings, he would not have attempted his sophistry. Is the coal and iron, and wages paid for in the Bruce Stewart factory in our own city, AN INDIVIDUAL TAX UPON ANY PERSONS, OR ARE THEY A LEGITIMATE EXPENDITURE FOR STOCK, LABOR AND MATERIAL FROM WHICH THE PROFITS OF THE BUSINESS ARE DERIVED. In identical manner, when the Dominion Government carries a letter from Charlottetown to Vancouver for the small sum of three cents IS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL TAX UPON THE CITIZEN, OR A VERY CHEAP AND LOW BUSINESS

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

COMFORT

They are not dead, those loved ones who have passed beyond our vision for a little while. They have but reached the Light while we still grope. In darkness where we cannot see them smile. But smile they do, and love us, and do not forget, nor ever go so far away. But that their hands still clasp our hands and hold us safe from falling when we faint would stray. They are not dead. Theirs is the fuller life. Theirs is the victory, the joy, the gain; For us still the waiting and the strife. For us the loneliness, for us the pain. Then let us gird us once again with hope, and give them smile for smile, and loving serving when Our Father calls. We'll go to find our dear ones wait us at the gate. H. A. C.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

Dr. Ross and Protection

Sir,—This question of the tariff is an absorbing one just now. There seems to me no doubt in view of the Fordney bill, that Canada must adopt some sort of a retaliatory measure. The United States try by this measure to shut out the trade of the world, Canada with the rest, and we are compelled in self-defense to try and protect ourselves. To this end Hon. Mr. Meighen advocates a protective tariff, Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King a tariff for revenue purposes, and Mr. Crerar practically a free trade measure on a number of articles. Mr. Meighen's position is very clear cut—a tariff for protective purposes.

The arguments used against a protective tariff is that it taxes the consumers for the benefit of the manufacturer, and the answer is that competition among the manufacturers will keep the price down for the consumer. In view of mergers taking place among manufacturers of similar articles the price to the consumer is often kept up. Therefore owing to mergers and trade arrangements to sell at the same price staple articles the argument mainly holds that the consumer pays for the benefit of the manufacturer.

Now, it is but fair that a manufacturer who has his factory in Canada and gives employment to Canadians should have Canada as his territory. There can be no objection to this. If some tariff could be designed to effect this, and at the same time not bleed the class of consumers for the benefit of the manufacturer, it would be ideal. If a tariff could be adapted to divert into the public treasury the money that under a protective tariff would go into the pockets of the manufacturer it would be a boon devoutly to be wished, in view of our heavy debt.

No reason why this cannot be done by means of a combination of an excise and Custom tariff measure. The excise machinery is now in operation and all that is needed is to extend it. Let a customs tariff of, say 50 p. c. be put in force on all goods coming in this country and an excise tariff of 5 p. c. to 10 p. c. less be put on the same article made and consumed in Canada. The excise tariff is removed from all articles exported.

The high customs tariff maintains Canada as a field for our own manufacturer, and the excise tariff diverts the greater part of the profit now derived by him from the Customs tariff to the public treasury. The consumer pays of course but he knows that he is paying for the benefit of his country, and not for that of a class.

This scheme would produce an enormous revenue, and would shortly cut down the debt, under which this country is groaning without so much resorting to direct taxation. Briefly enumerated the plan is this: High customs tariff. Excise tariff somewhat lower on all goods made and consumed in Canada. Removal of excise tariff from exported goods. I am, Sir etc., A. ROSS.

COST, OFTEN RETURNING A THOUSAND FOLD PROFIT TO THE PERSON MAKING THE INVESTMENT? But the wily Mr. King in his "chicanery" edifies this a tax upon earnings or income. And yet he knows, or he ought to know, THAT ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE WHOLE REVENUE OF CANADA IS USED FOR THE WAGES AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ESSENTIAL FOR THE TRADE AND COMMERCE OF OUR COUNTRY. He better take his illogical argument to the farmers of the province and tell them that they are the authors of their own ruin in putting fertilizers and seed in the ground, and to stop the waste of buying ploughs and harrows because they are an inexcusable tax upon their earnings or income.

Is the postal service of the country, for instance, a tax upon earnings and income, or is it a legitimate business investment returning a hundred fold profit for every dollar of its cost? Will Mr. King who talks so glibly of this taxation abolish this postal service, if the people are foolish enough to place him in power? And yet a very large proportion of the money voted for the public service, which he designates as a tax upon earnings, is for the postal service. Will the letter carriers all over this province make their daily mail deliveries if Mr. King stops their pay? If he should close down the postal service, and Mr. Smith has an important letter that must be delivered in Vancouver, how much would it cost him to get it there? It now costs three cents it would then cost anywhere from two to three hundred dollars. The Prince Edward Island Railway is costing the country about half a million dollars more to run it than it earns. Is this a tax on the individual, or a

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