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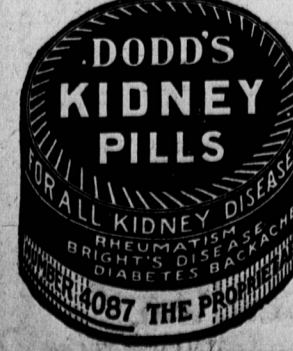
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Teapots

Just received two Crates of best English Teapots, an exceptional assortment to choose from

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It might be well to remember while correcting your disordered offspring that you did not die young.



THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1920

THE FARMER AND FREE TRADE

Mr. Crerar who is now the recognized head of a definite political organization, the United Farmers, is a free trader. One of the tenets of his political creed is that the foreign market controls the price of Canadian products...

There are eight million of us Canadians of whom some three millions are farmers. There are one hundred and ten millions of Americans of whom forty millions are farmers. Will Mr. Crerar seriously tell the Canadian farmer that it would make no difference if the forty million American farmers entered into competition with our three million Canadian farmers in our own market and on equal terms?

A Brantford, Ontario, farmer giving evidence the other day before the Tariff Commission said "We are not so much interested in the price of grain as we are in the home market. Brantford has been a fine market for the farmers and the stock raisers on account of the large population and the demand which the workers in the industries create for our products."

No one with any common sense will believe for a moment that the opening of Canadian markets to such competition as the United States could offer would not be a serious blow to Canadian agriculture.

CITY AND COUNTRY

Some of the arguments advanced for the abolition of a protective tariff would be ludicrous if it were not for the fact that in some quarters they are taken seriously. Protection, they tell us, has built up the factories and around the factories cities have grown. The factories and the cities are enticing men and women from the country; the cities are being built up and the country is being depopulated.

Is not this the remedy of the old lady who would not teach her boy to walk lest he should run away? Why do our young men and women go to the cities? Is it not because the cities offer opportunities that are not to be found in the country? Are we to cut these opportunities off in order that the boys and the girls shall stay on the farms? And if we did cut them off in our Canadian cities what would happen? Our boys and girls would go to the cities in the United States where the opportunities are available.

It is regrettable and unfortunate that the farm with all its possibilities and its opportunities is in so many cases less attractive and even less remunerative than the factory or the store or the office. How to overcome this handicap is the problem. It will certainly not be overcome by placing the city "out of bounds" for the young man or the young woman. They will go where the inducements which they are looking for are available; this they have a right to do and it would be criminal folly to deprive them of the privilege even if it could be done.

When the farm offers equal advantages with the city, as many of them now do, then the boys and girls will remain on the farm. There are farms in this province today from which no city allurements could draw the young people because they know they are much better off than they would be as employees in the city but such farms are as yet the exception. Eventually we hope to see the ambition of our boys and girls drawing them to the free, independent and profitable life on the farm.

Farming pays and we have given proof of this in former issues of the Guardian. That it has its drawbacks no one will deny. One of the great drawbacks is the scarcity of laborers. We have no surplus laboring class in this province. Young men available for employment have been attracted by the greater wages in the cities, here or elsewhere, wages which the ordinary farmer cannot afford to pay. The remedy for this would appear to be importation of foreign labour as is being done in farming sections of Ontario where many Belgians are employed, but that is another problem. The thing is that farming prudently carried on, pays and there is no reason why farming should not be as attractive as any other calling and infinitely more so than uncertain day's work in the city.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is pretty generally conceded that any material lowering of the tariff would result in the closing down of all or many of the two hundred American branch factories in Canada. This is another warning that tariff reduction will mean loss of home markets as well as lower land values.

CURRENT COMMENT

The United Farmers Guide published a dissertation on the subject of Britain under Free Trade by the Right Honorable J. M. Robertson a specialist in the old country who makes this subject his hobby. While disclaiming interference with Canadian politics as "no business of mine" he adopts an isolated passage in the address of Hon. Arthur Meighen, the full report of which is in Hansard, as the foundation for a lengthy criticism of a few things which our Prime Minister did say and of a great many other things which HE DID NOT SAY, and not even by "INFERENCE" as this wily English critic pretends to interpret his utterances. The passage quoted was part of an argument cited in answer to Dr. Michael Clarke, the preceding speaker, who in his address first declared for Free Trade as they have it in England and then insisted that Canada MUST HAVE AN EXCESS OF EXPORTS OVER IMPORTS to ensure prosperity. The Hon. Mr. Meighen quoted British Trade Returns to show that from the date of the adoption of free trade in England the former balance of trade in her favor was immediately reversed and the EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS increased yearly until the balance against them amounted to £150,000,000 or in our currency at \$700,000,000.

Mr. Robertson does not question the accuracy of these or any of the Prime Minister's figures, but attempts to dispose of them by more specious processes. He says: "It is painful to point out to a minister of Mr. Meighen's status that what he represents as an annual loss was the annual gain of the nation as a trading and investing body." No such meaning was possible from any remark made by Mr. Meighen, and no man possessed of common sense would reach any such conclusion. Excess of purchases or imports by a country in as much as the imports represent capital assets as an offset to the liabilities incurred. But from the economic standpoint it would be infinitely better for the country to be able to make these purchases from her own people and within its own boundaries. Our British critic then suggests that this surplus of imports "is not something that has to be paid for, it is the profits of the nation on its international dealings." That also is true, but if the Right Hon. Gentleman will only observe it, the whole force of this fact conflicts with his theories. Returns upon capital, STORED UP AND EARNED UNDER A PREVIOUS PROTECTIVE POLICY IS NOT A PART OF THE CURRENT TRADE OF THE COUNTRY, BUT A DRAFT UPON INHERITED WEALTH AND THE INCOME DERIVED THEREFROM.

He talks of teaching "the A. B. C. of international economics, because, alas, Mr. Meighen has not yet mastered it." In this, at least, the Premier has taught him a lesson.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

BE GLAD. Is it raining, little flower? Be glad of rain. Too much sun would wither thee, 'Twill shine again. The sky is very black, 'tis true. But just behind it shines The Blue.

Art thou weary, tender heart? Be glad of pain; In sorrow the sweetest things will grow As flowers in the rain. God watches and thou wilt have sun When clouds their perfect work Have done. -Author Unknown.

If all our misfortunes were laid in one heap, whence every one must take an equal portion, most people would be content to take their own and depart.

THINGS THAT COUNT. By Spencer M. Free.

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts. The touch of your hand and mine, Which means far more to the faintling heart Than shelter and bread and wine For shelter is gone when the night is o'er. And bread lasts only a day. But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice Sing on in the soul always.

It's a good safe rule to sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never mistaking an opportunity of doing a kindness, speaking a true word or making a friend.

son in his own stupidity. His knowledge of "buying" and "selling," as he puts it, is that of a capitalist doing his business, as he is constrained to admit, upon his inherited and invested funds, from THE INCOME OF WHICH HE IS ENABLED TO MEET THE COST OF THE EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS. Had he learned the A. B. C. of what he was talking about he would have made note of the fact that CANADA IS A YOUNG COUNTRY WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY EARNED AND EXTENSIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, that she must pay for her excess of imports EITHER IN CASH OR FUNDED LIABILITY and must of compulsion arrange her fiscal policy to meet these conditions. He gives some trade similes to illustrate his point, but if he will pursue the whole of Mr. Meighen's speech he will find every one of them referred to and disposed of, and he will find many more facts and statistics in connection with the trade and commerce of Great Britain that he most studiously avoided making any approach to.

Mr. Seddon, of New Zealand, took the ground, which was perfectly logical in his own country, having no foreign investments, that an "adverse trade balance" must be met by bullion payments, and Mr. Robertson goes out of his way to declare that "apparently Mr. Meighen is of that school." It would be more fitting if he would attempt to reply to what our Premier said himself without traversing the southern seas for some utterances to attribute to him. Mr. Meighen was not indulging in school-boy economics, but dealing with plain, every day facts, not one syllable of which the Right Hon. Gentleman has questioned the accuracy of, and in the course of his speech both accepted and enlarged upon by the very arguments made use of by his English critic. That Great Britain was able to finance not only herself but other countries during the war is not disputed, but it is equally true that she did so through the medium of her national credit, and inherited wealth, and it is further indisputably true as stated by Mr. Meighen that "Great Britain is sinking deeper and deeper into debt every year since 1850!"

Quoting Messrs Gray and Turner, statistical economists, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and further emphasized by Sir William Booth, Mr. Meighen stated that 13,000,000 or 30.7 per cent of the population were "below the poverty line" and "on the verge of hunger," in Great Britain. The Right Hon. Mr. Robertson's answer is that this is also "true of China, Japan, India, Europe and America. This does not touch the point at issue. Famine and starvation prevails in these and to a worse extent in some of the war-stricken countries. BUT THE FISCAL POLICIES OF THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT HELD UP TO CANADA AS PATTERNS FOR IMITATION OR EMULATION. The comparisons made were as between the trade policy of our own country and the mother land, and with incidental reference to France, Germany and the United States in relation to the working of their protective policies. And the indisputable conclusion is that while there is an abundance of wealth amongst the upper class in Free Trade England, there is on the other hand a larger percent age of poverty than in any of these countries.

Another strong point made by Hon. Mr. Meighen, in answer to Dr. Clarke's contention that Free Trade as in England would encourage agriculture, was that under protection the agricultural population of Great Britain was 49.3 or practically one half of her total people. In the year 1913, just before the war, the agricultural population had declined to 21.3 per cent. This decline commenced in 1850, after the adoption of the free trade principle and continued steadily downward until it dropped from one half to one fifth of the former agricultural population. One million are now employed in agriculture in the British Isles under the free trade banner where over two million were engaged in the same work before tariffs were abolished. In 1851 it was the farmer who wanted protection and the mechanic that fought for free trade, and Mr. Meighen quoted a speech from Lord Macaulay, delivered on the occasion of his last election, before the University of Edinburgh, (1851), showing that some politicians were as double-faced then as the Government opponents are in Canada today. We quote the words "He went into the country and found that there were standards and printed flags wherever the agricultural population predominated bearing the legend, 'Vote for Smith and Protection.' But as soon as he crossed the river into the city it was 'Vote for Smith and Free Trade.' There must after all be something in the theory of transmigration of souls, at least from

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