

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1920

THE TARIFF QUESTION.

We publish with pleasure in another column the letter of "An Enquiring Farmer" on the tariff question, and commend his thoughtful questions to other farmers who are no doubt often puzzled over the conflicting claims set up by the respective advocates of Free Trade and Protection. We also trust that our remarks on the question will be informative and conclusive. It would be a sorry day for this or any other province if its farmers or others should vote blindly on the great questions of policy, on the proper settlement of which depends the present and future prosperity of the country.

First as to the fundamental necessity of protecting our home industries. We do not think that this requires any lengthy elaboration. When the National Policy was inaugurated Canada was a young country with few manufacturing enterprises. Her nearest neighbor, the United States, was comparatively old and rich in manufacture. We could never hope to get our industries on their feet while subject to such unequal competition. We were buying either from the United States or other foreign countries practically all the manufactured goods we required. Our correspondent will we feel assured admit that in order to get industries started it was necessary to protect them.

The question now is, are our industries sufficiently established to permit of indiscriminate competition with countries whose factories are still infinitely larger than ours because of the larger clientele to whom they cater. The home market alone of the United States is a market of one hundred million people; our factories cater to only eight millions. Their home trade alone justifies the manufacture of enormous quantities of expensive goods and their factories are built in proportion. For this reason they can outclass us in the manufacture of such articles as only the wealthy can purchase for where we have eight customers they have a hundred. In this category we may include expensive boots, costing say \$20 a pair; expensive high power engines for which we have but a limited demand. In the matter of ordinarily priced boots and shoes such as the great majority of us wear we can not only make as good an article, but can sell just as cheaply as the United States. In the matter of engines, also, such as are used by our farmers and fishermen, we are competing on equal terms without the aid of a protective duty.

Our farmer correspondent has asked some very pertinent questions which we have numbered categorically for convenience and we trust our replies to these will be satisfactory. The numbered paragraphs correspond to the numbered questions: (1) By preventing the dumping on our markets of the surplus products of other countries at a lower price in many cases than they are sold to their own consumers and by compelling foreign manufacturers when selling in our markets at even the same prices charged by our manufacturers, to contribute in the form of duties to our revenues to at least the same extent as the home manufacturer is obliged to do thus at the same time protecting our industries from unequal competition and contributing to our revenue; also by collecting duty on many lines not manufactured extensively in our country the importation of which would enter into competition with similar home made goods.

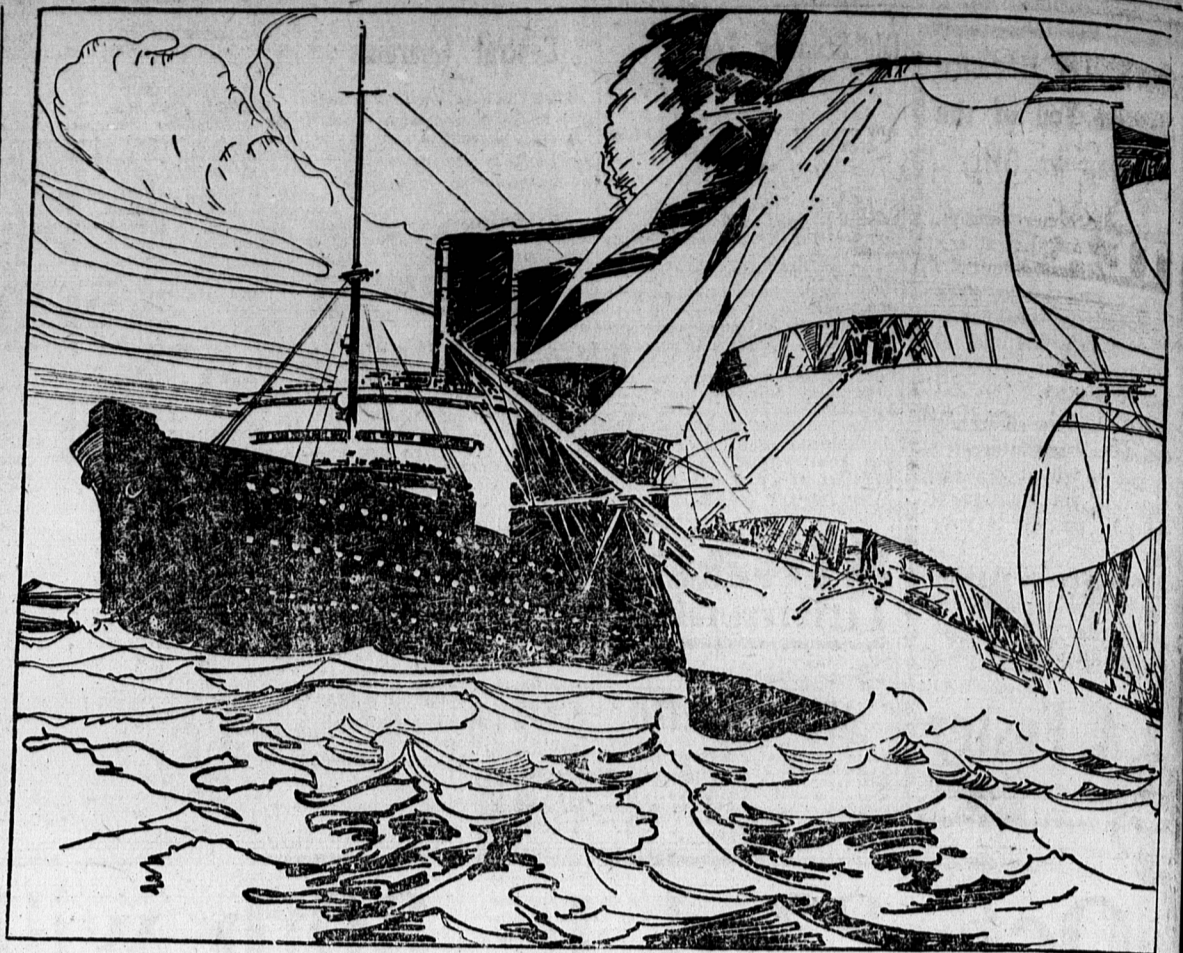
(2) The whole revenue of Canada does not come from import duties and the total is not as large as many suppose. The total revenues from import duties for the year ending March 31, 1919 was \$158,044,456.49. It will no doubt interest our Farmer friend to learn that \$61,516,820 worth of farm products was imported into Canada during that year, and that \$14,016,150.16 was collected in duties on these products, thus protecting our farmers to that extent.

This was exclusive of meats, eggs and milk products on which \$635,084.22 of duties was collected, while, on the other hand, the duties on farm implements representing 65 different lines from shovels and scythes to binders and engines, amounted to \$1,571,196.23. Besides this, \$16,054,525 worth of farm implements were admitted free of duty. It will be plain to our correspondent that the value of our farm products was enhanced some hundreds of millions to our farmers while the revenue was increased in round figures to about \$15,000,000.

For instance 4,276,914 bushels of oats were imported despite a duty of ten cents a bushel. What would Canadian oats have been worth if that ten cents protection had been removed? Again, barrelled pork, used extensively in our lumber camps, mines and shipping was imported to the extent of 11,187,399 pounds in face of a duty of \$4.00 a barrel and then underselling our product. What would be the value of Canadian pork if this duty were removed? Instead of 21 cents at Toronto would our hogs fall back to the Chicago price of 15 and 16 cents per pound?

(3) We do not admit this to be the case. This is the contention of advocates of free trade which, for reasons above cited, is not well founded.

With reference to increased price of tractors referred to, tractors are admitted free of duty. Our correspondent may have been misled by the luxury tax placed upon autos whether made in Canada or elsewhere but which does not apply to farm tractors.



Ships that Pass in the Night

Foreign Trade is Essential to Domestic Prosperity.

Else—stagnation at home. New routes must be opened, Canadian Trade Lines must be established and maintained. With ships, the markets of the world are open to Canadians. Canada produces a surplus of necessities. Commercial supremacy means—the ability to carry where and when required, to sell without interference, and

Demands the Freedom of the Seas.

By willingness and ability to provide ships, Canada this year has drawn the West Indies closer to herself and to the Empire. She can make preferential trade agreements with other peoples

under the British flag without arousing international complications.

The trade of 45,000,000 people in British Tropical Africa is waiting for us to-day.

Trade Follows the Flag.

The very existence of the Empire proves it. But to secure trade there must be ships and men with adventurous spirit to man them—and men with vision to seek out markets.

The Navy League advocates a Merchant Marine, officered and manned by Canadians trading from Canadian ports.

Politics have no place in this work. It promotes a national ideal. Commercial and agricultural prosperity depend upon it.

Unless we develop Overseas Trade, we may become mere hewers of wood and drawers of water for other nations.

To carry on this work costs Money. The money must come from the Public.

The Navy League of Canada

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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.

THE TARIFF QUESTION

Sir,—In your editorial column each day appear strong articles in favor of a protective tariff. You also invite farmers to give this question earnest study as it is of most vital importance. As one earnestly seeking the light and not in any spirit of controversy I would like to have some phases of this question more fully explained.

(1) How does our tariff protect home industries and supply revenue at the same time?

(2) Does not the very large revenue from customs show that foreign goods are coming in?

(3) If home industries, as has been claimed, add the exact amount of the duty to their selling price, are not foreign competitors in the same position as before the tariff was imposed?

The trade returns seem to bear this out. The only difference is that home industries receive a higher price for their articles and the government receives a like amount in revenue on all foreign articles brought in, both amounts coming out of the Canadian consumers.

In the Guardian last spring I read an ad by a local dealer urging farmers "to buy tractors now as the tariff was going on shortly and tractors would be this amount dearer." As a matter of fact all tractors were increased in price this amount. This would seem also to bear out what has been claimed by opponents of the tariff.

It would seem from all this that our home industries do not seek protection from the tariff but rather prefer to suffer foreign competition and receive the higher price.

Another phase of the question which I cannot see clearly is your recent reference to protection in the United States. Both parties there, you say, are convinced of the need and wisdom of protecting their great home market for American industries. You also say that under free trade these same industries would invade and capture our Canadian markets. If they could capture foreign markets under Free Trade why do they need protection at home?

An explanation of these points would enlighten.

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A MEATLESS HOT PIE

Another Use Discovered For Those Oxo Cubes.

Here is a recipe calling for no meat other than the concentrated beef-goodness to be found in the familiar Oxo cube.

Peel and slice sufficient potatoes to half fill a large pie dish, add few small onions, also sliced. Put into cold water, bring quickly to a boil, boil one minute, then drain.

Put back in pie dish with few slices of tomato, season with pepper and salt and flavour with herbs. Dissolve one Oxo cube in a pint of hot milk and pour over mixture. Put few bits of butter on top and bake for two hours in moderate oven. It's delicious.

All dealers sell Oxo in tins of four, ten, and fifty cubes.

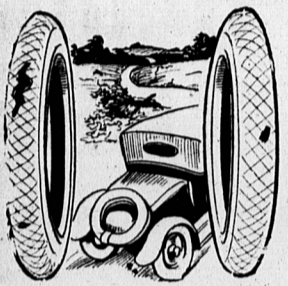


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JUDGE NOT

This ointment might have been sold... and given to the poor. And they murmured against her. —St. Mark XIV. 5.

It is very easy to yield to the temptation to criticize others, and find fault with their way of serving Christ. There are many motives which come in to encourage this unchristian habit. We are all prone to be envious of others, and hence to form unjust opinions of what they do. One of the last graces to ripen in a Christian is usually that of rejoicing in another's good work. It is very hard, too, to learn our Lord's lesson: "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

It seems natural, too, said as the confession may be, for us to disparage what others do and to underestimate it.

But we should learn the sinfulness of murmuring against others. We see how unlovely, how unchristian, it was in these first disciples. Is it any less so in us when we allow ourselves to criticize our fellow Christians, finding fault with the way they show their love for Christ? Even if they do not do their work as we do ours, have we a right to judge them and blame them, and speak unkind things about what they have done? Between them and their Master rests the matter, and it is not our duty to make ourselves judges and condemners of their acts.

I. R. MILLER.

COOKERY COLUMN

COCOA TAPIOCA

- 3 cups boiling water 1/2 teaspoon salt 3 tablespoons Cowan's Cocoa 1/2 cup milk 1/2 cup quick-cooking tapioca 1/2 teaspoon vanilla 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Method:—Mix cocoa and salt with milk. Cook in a double boiler, stirring till they are well blended. Add boiling water gradually and bring to boiling point. Stir in the tapioca and cook till tapioca is clear 20-25 minutes. Cool slightly, add cinnamon and vanilla; serve cold with cream.



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