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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1929

THEY ALL WANT IT.

At Washington the stage is all set r a new tariff bill, with the people the United States practically a it in respect of it. They want ei- er higher tariffs or are content to ve higher tariffs. It has ceased to a party question. Representative arner, Democratic leader in the ouse of Representatives, is as ar- nt as any Republican in demanding creases and the Democratic party practically as strong for them as e Republican party, Mark Sulli- n, one of the best informed of nerican political writers, says that e coming tariff revision "is unpre- dented in one respect; that is, the ck of any formidable body of pub- opinion demanding revision down- ard; the lack of any leader mak- g himself the spokesman of low, or oderate tariff." Judging by the ap- arances before the Congressional ays and means committee, which as been holding hearings on tariff roposals, the consumers of the untry, no less than the manufac- rers and the farmers, believe that rotection makes for prosperity and hat, if they have work and are pros- rous, they can afford to pay high- prices for what they want.

The Department of Commerce at Washington has classified the Cana- an imports to the United States r 1927. The 1928 figures, while mewhat higher, would be of the me relative importance. This list eveals that of the total of $433,187,- 98 bought by the United States from anada. $167,321,447 was the value of e wood pulp, pulpwood and news- rint which the United States has to get from the Dominion. A total f $123,205,087 is made up in precious nd non-precious metals, farm im- lements, coal, furs, fish, alcoholic everages and sundry imports. There left $147,661,464, all farm and for- st products and every dollar of this otal will be barred from the United States markets, to as great an extent s increased duties will do the job, if he tariff revisionists have their way —and nothing has yet occurred to ndicate that they will not have their vay.

A RADIO EXTENSION.

A suggestion comes from British Columbia that the debates in the Provincial Parliament be put "on the air" and broadcast for radio for the benefit of all the people who have the means, and the will, to listen in. Like other innovations, the idea has its advocates and its opponents. Whether it is feasible in British Columbia we do not know. It is argued that since there are at least as many good reasons why it should be done as not, it might at any rate be worth a trial; and the more we ponder over this the more reasons we see for trying it out in our own province, at least for a session.

Of course, as the Vancouver Province points out, there will be a tremendous lot of objection. We shall be told that the positive evil of encouraging the politicians to indulge in more talk, because they will be conscious of their larger and invisible audience, will far outweigh the problematical good of parliamentary broadcasting. We shall be told that it will cost a lot of money; that it will put a new weapon of propaganda in the possession of governments already well armed; that it will "clutter up the air;" that nobody wants it badly enough to warrant all the bother of doing it. And we shall probably be told finally that a newspaper's voice ought to be the last voice raised on the side of a competing rival in the publication of parliamentary debate.

On the other hand, the opportunity of listening in to the debates would give a new significance to votes for women. They could familiarize themselves with political questions while they played bridge, or darned socks, or got the supper ready. It is contended, also, that it would make for better speeches. For we know, says the "Province", that as things are now, the Press Gallery is very kind to hon. members, and their speeches as they appear in the newspapers are very often a much more lucid performance than the natural product. If our politicians knew that they were being listened-in to by half their constituents, they would be apt to watch their step, and pay more attention to matter and manner.

There are even more cogent reasons for adopting the scheme in Prince Edward Island. Had the debate on the amendments to the Prohibition Act, for instance, been "on the air" during the last legislative session, what a revelation it would have been to our people throughout the country, and what a new complexion it would have given to the whole temperance situation! No newspaper report could have done justice to that debate. The extraordinary nature of the original draft amendments, their grammatical and legal absurdities, their self contradictions, their rough-shod overriding of British law and practice, and the amazing arguments advanced in their defence, would have made a diverting programme not only for Island radio fans but for those in our sister provinces from coast to coast. The Premier's budget speech "on the air," interspersed as it no doubt would be by static, electric whoops and catcalls, would have made a much more exhilirating performance than the somewhat depressing exhibition witnessed by the actual spectators at the last parliamentary session. Apart from this, the deliverances of the back benchers would reach the constituencies in their original grammatical purity, unpruned by the editorial shears and with their spicy flavor undiluted. For legislative oratory, like fish, is more palatable in its fresh state. Much of it, indeed, is intended only for immediate consumption; and for the distribution of such perishable products the radio should serve the same purpose as the quick-freezing process recently devised for indefinitely preserving the salt-sea flavor of our Atlantic haddock.

On second thought, however, we doubt if the experiment would justify the expenditure necessarily involved. Unless the Government could work in some outside advertising between the speeches, and thus make the performance self-sustaining, it is hardly likely that the taxpayers would be willing to foot the bill when so much professional vaudeville is competing on the air, and can be tapped at any moment.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Speech from the Throne, says an exchange, is not a programme—it is a yawn. Where are the old cries about the cost of living? about ocean freight rates, about Senate reform? Where all the old ardent pledges of a once crusading Liberalism? Gone like the leaves of yesteryear, or the pledges of the Saunders Government!

Every season has its own peculiarities. The present mild winter is objected to on account of the increased cost of horse-shoeing. The lack of snow is also said to be bad for the land. And the poor coal merchants are up against the dull market. The injurious insects are having a safe and quiet sleep, instead of being killed by the frost. Even so, there are compensations!

Though the statements attributed to Mr. Appleton in an alleged interview in the Patriot have been completely discredited, the Liberal organ persists in its blustering bravado. The publication of the Appleton-McLean correspondence, which would place its readers in possession of the facts and substantiate the Guardian's statements, is of course hardly to be expected; but in view of its present humiliating position a frank confession on the Patriot's part would seem to be the only way out. We shall watch its struggle to achieve this moral victory with interest, and even solicitude, though scarcely with hope.

Notes By The Way

Women are still fighting for their rights. Having gained the right to vote in all the Canadian Provinces except Quebec and being in the majority in all the provinces east of the Great Lakes, they succeeded in electing just one of their number to sit among 244 masculine members of the House of Commons in the Canadian Parliament. If this seems rather surprising, it is equally so that they have now before the courts an application to decide whether a woman is a person within the meaning of the British North America Act. The object of this movement—it comes from Alberta—is that women may be able to break into the Red Chamber at Ottawa by being appointed to the Senate.

If one asks what they will do when they get there, it may be hard to tell what the answer will be. But they are aware that the Senate now initiates all bills for severance of the marriage tie in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which have no divorce courts. This really is a matter in which a host of married women have some personal concern, whether or not they are "persons" under the Canadian constitution.

Long before women were given the voting franchise it was proverbial that women exercised a very large control in the affairs of all civilized countries. Has that control and influence for good been increased or diminished by opening to them the gates of the polling booth and the legislature? High-minded and intellectual women are asking themselves this question.

It was before the domain of politics was opened to the feminine half of the world that under our British system Queen Victoria held her long and beneficial reign over an Empire wider, more populous and powerful than any the world had before seen. And as Tennyson has sung, "a thousand claims to reverence closed in her as Mother, Wife and Queen."

Women in politics thus far have not enlarged their influence or control for good to any appreciable extent in the home or in the state. In the social circle the woman politician as such exercises a disruptive influence in many cases, without compensating benefit to offset her lost influence in the home, wherein lies her greatest seat of influence for good.

A woman may again be Queen Empress of the great British Commonwealth of Nations, but it will be long years in the future before a woman can hope to be president of the United States or of the French or German republics.

Saint John will be much gratified to have the Saint John and Quebec Railway taken off the shoulders of the province and absorbed into the Canadian National, as is now promised to be done. This line was built at great cost and with low grades like the Transcontinental, but was never extended, as was first projected to connect with that system as it will be hereafter. It was operated at heavy loss to New Brunswick. Behind the existing complex lies the old rivalry between Saint John and Halifax as competing terminals. Nova Scotian influence dominated the situation and Saint John was sidetracked, so far as the all-Canadian freight route from the upper provinces to the sea was concerned.

Loans aggregating $38,000,000 to various harbor commissions will be made this year according to Ottawa reports. Such loans to harbor commissions had been made from year to year by the Dominion Government before any harbor in the Maritime Provinces had been placed in commission. Those old loans were in most cases treated as gifts by those who received the money, neither the principal nor interest thereon being paid. But the loans were rated as valid assets in the Finance Department at Ottawa. It would be interesting to learn whether the new loans to harbor commissions, mostly going to ports in Quebec, Ontario or British Columbia, will be treated in the same fashion that has so long prevailed.

Old Age Pensions are of especial interest to the people of Prince Edward Island because we have here a larger proportion of persons of pensionable age than there are in any other province. The Pensions Act provision under which the Dominion and the Provinces are each called upon to contribute one-half of the sum to be distributed is most unfair to us. A vast amount of money is involved in the pension scheme and whether our province shall decide to go in as other provinces are doing, or to stay out it will be heavily penalized. In the one case we shall be contributing to what the Dominion pays and get no pensions. In the other case we shall come under the pension system on terms that can only be met by new taxation. The legislature must soon meet and apparently our Provincial Government has not yet decided what course to take in the matter.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

FOOD CAUSES ECZEMA.

One of the mean skin ailments of which I have written before is eczema.

You may remember that it usually begins with a redness, then little raised points, which become watery and later excrete a sort of light pus; this is followed by scales, scabs, and sometimes by fissues or open cuts in the skin. There is nearly always itching which is one of the ways it is diagnosed.

Just what causes eczema is still unknown, but that there is a hereditary tendency, and that the manner in which the body handles or fails handle certain foods is a factor, is now agreed.

The foods to avoid are said to be, pork, preserved meats, veal, goose, liver, fresh bread, hot bread, hot cakes, fried foods, acid fruits, potatoes, butter, cream, sugar, milk, candy, very hot or very cold drinks.

Safe foods are meat and vegetable soups, fresh fish, boiled or poached eggs, any cereal breakfast foods except oatmeal, stale bread, spinach, lettuce, asparagus, beans and peas, figs, prunes, oranges, stewed fruits, water, with limited amounts of tea, coffee, milk, cocoa, buttermilk.

However Dr. B. Usher, Montreal, has been comparing the blood sugar in normal individuals with those having eczema. In those with eczema there was a large percent who showed more delay in assimilating the starch or sugar than in those free from eczema.

From his experiments Dr. Usher feels that in itself dextrose or sugar formed by starchy food does not cause eczema.

However it has been shown recently by investigators that human sweat or perspiration makes an excellent culture medium or food for organisms. Now these organisms are present on the skin all the time and seem to be harmless, but it is believed that in persons whose cells or tissues do not handle or take care of starchy foods properly, that these organisms seem to become more active and irritate the skin.

And it has been shown that these organisms vary in number and activity with the amount of sugar in the sweat.

The only thought here is that food is still the big factor in causing eczema and the afflicted individual must work out his own salvation by avoiding the articles of food which aggravate the condition in his own particular case.

THE POET'S CORNER

SONG

(From "As You Like It.")

Under the greenwood tree
Who loves to lie with me,
And tune his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat—
Come hither, come hither, come hither!
Here shall we see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.

Who doth ambition shun,
And loves to live i' the sun,
Seeking the food he eats,
And pleased with what he gets—
Come hither, come hither, come hither!
Here shall we see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK LEIGH

CANADA'S NATIONAL WEALTH

Q. What are the chief items that make up Canada's National Wealth?

A. The chief items that make up Canada's National Wealth are, agricultural $7,832,942,000; urban real property, $6,928,000,000; steam railways investment, $2,881,366,000; forest wealth, $1,341,613,000, manufacturers (materials and stocks) $1,324,464,000; household furnishings and clothing, $1,200,000,000.

Surgeons of India used nearly 10,000 pairs of American rubber gloves during operations last year.

The President of Panama recently vetoed a bill for a 6 p. m. closing hour for business houses.

English aviators have decided to make no attempt for world speed records until after the Schneider Trophy contest.

Afghanistan: The Kingdom Of Tumult

Roughly embraced by the tremendous ridges which culminate in the summits of Hindu-Kush, in altitude second only to Mount Everest, Afghanistan, the very name of which means a "realm of tumult,' 'is today in the throes of an upheaval. To use a phrase of Kipling's history is writing yet another plain tale from the hills, writes P. W. Wilson in the New York Times.

The country is so poor that its entire public revenue for all purposes, civil and military, is said not to exceed $5,000,000. It contains not one foot of railway and is inhabited by a simple people. It is only less remote than Tibet. Yet once more a whisper along the Khyber Pass echoes throughout the world.

If Afghanistan has an importance far beyond herself, it is because she is a factor in the great game which determines the destiny of mid-Asia. Afghanistan is the strategic threshold of India. The Afghans may be only 8,000,000 in number but their country three times the size of Great Britain, contains 245,000 square miles. Over Afghanistan it is possible to travel 700 miles in a straight line. It is a region that dominates India's communications overland with Europe.

In the sixth century B. C., the century when Confuciuc taught wisdom to China and Buddha renounced the pleasures of a palace at Kapilavastu, we see Darius the Persian setting forth from his capital, Susa, in the Euphrates Valley—the Shushan of Scripture—and forcing his way through Afghanistan to the enriched but enervated realms beyond. From still more distant Macedonia, Alexander the Great led his army of Greeks—an incredible feat—through Afghanistan to the banks of the Indus.

Proud Traditions

Here are traditions of which every Afghan is proudly, if dimly, subconscious. He claims that, though Ishmael, he is a son of Abraham. Others assign to him a more illustrious descent from the patriarch, seeing in the Afghans a settlement of Jews who were carried into captivity. Others again do not doubt that in Afghan blood there is a Greek element, derived from the conquerors under Alexander.

During the Christian era the incursions into India through Afghanistan were terrible indeed. In the tenth century, Mahmound of Ghazni raided the northern territories of the great peninsula no fewer than seventeen times, gathering captives and booty, and everywhere smashing the idols of Hinduism—the four-armed Kali, Hanuman the Monkey, and Ganesh, half elephant and half man. These were the kind of forays which, until a comparatively recent date, left the Punjab impoverished; and it was Mahmound's descendants, who, being Afghans, actually installed themselves as Emperors at Delhi. What wonder if the Afghans of today, seeing India still Indian, and Indian India still divided, dreams that, perhaps, the time may come again when the virility of the North may overcome the lassitude of the South. Who knows?

Seven hundred years ago there arose a new menace to Hindu culture. From the North, the Mongols swept through Afghanistan and dispossessed the Afghans themselves. It is not easy to decide whether, as a plunderer, the palm of supremacy should be awarded to Genghis Khan or to Tamerlane. It was Tamerlane's descendant who supplanted the Afghans as Emperors at Delhi, where Baber founded a new dynasty. You may still see Baber's grave at Kabul marked by a simple slab, serene and secluded in a garden. It suggests the evanescence of an utmost human splendor.

A New Factor

The Mongols, who marched with Genghis Khan, Tamerlane and Baber into India through Afghanistan are represented today by the Russians, whose advance southward, though orderly, is no less formidable than the Tartar eruptions of an earlier era. But a new factor has entered into the strategy of the situation, namely, sea power. The Russian Bear is opposed not only by India herself but by Western Europe, operating through the Suez Canal. In the eighteenth century Western Europe meant France, England and Portugal. Today it is England alone that executes the trust, and Afghanistan is the field on which the British Lion confronts the Russian Bear.

In 1906 Sir Edward Grey as Foreign Secretary negotiated an agreement between Great Britain and Russia whereby their rivalries in Persia and Afghanistan and Tibet were abated, but with the fall of the Czardom that agreement lapsed and the Soviets resumed Russia's historic role. Kabul may be the most isolated of independent capitals, linked with the outer world merely by slender lines of telegraph, recently cut, and wireless, recently interrupted. But the air in Kabul is laden with diplomatic intrigue, and the rumors of the bazaar have been weapons in a warfare none the less terminated because, as a rule, it has been bloodless.

What Great Britain wants is, in one word, quiescence. Her policy is expressed in a notice at the head of the Khyber Pass: "It is Absolutely Forbidden to Cross the Border Into Afghan Territory." Afghanistan as a buffer State, separating Britain from Russia—that is the idea. The maintenance of the territorial integrity is thus, according to British notions, conducive to peace. Indeed, the logic is obvious. Suppose it to be true that, in a race to Kabul from the south, Britain, with her railway and two military roads up the Khyber, would beat the Russians. Not less is it true that, in a race to Herat from the north, Russia, with her railway from Merv to Kushka, could beat the British. In Persia there are or used to be British and Russian spheres of influence, diplomatically delimited. Who is to delimit a diplomatic partition of Afghanistan?

Danger To India

In a famous phrase Lord Rosebery once described the Himalayas as "a cactus hedge," protecting India. Sometimes, it must be confessed, the spines of the cactus have torn India's more tender skin, but the danger of a disturbed Afghanistan is more serious even than this. It means that the cactus hedge has caugh fire and that India may be singed by the conflagration.

On the one hand, the tribesmen, raiding Kabul, are not less ready to raid Northern India. Indeed, thousands of them live in supreme indifference to frontiers other than the mountains themselves. On the other hand, it is a risky business to intervene in Afghanistan affairs. According to the proverb, it is easier to march to Kabul than to march back again; and in 1841, a British force, with women and children, numbering 15,000 persons, was annhilated by snipers in the Winter snow that lay on one of those awful defiles. Today a withdrawal of Europeans from Kabul can be effected by airplane, but even in aviation there are special risks. The airman carries in his hat a promise of $3,000 reward to any highlander who, finding him, helps him to return to his base alive.

The difficulty to-day is that the isolation of Afghanistan has come to an end. She is conscious that she is a link in a chain of more or less independent and powerful Asiatic sovereignties. To the east there is Japan, there are China and the shy theocracy of Tibet. To the west we see Persia, seeking efficiency under the dictatorship of Riga Khan; also Iraq, where King Fuad reigns with the support of the British; Turkey, governed by Mustapha Kemal, and Egypt, under King Fuad. Afghanistan belongs, if not to an Orient confederacy, at least to an Oriental renaissance.

Movement Shattered

For a time it seemed as if that renaissance might be spiritual. Ten years ago there were present in the East all the materials for a Pan-Islamic movement, which, if we judge from precedent, might have been formidable indeed to the influence of the West. It has been shattered by the Turks themselves. By deposing the Sultan and Caliph, by disendowing the mosques, by throwing the Koran into the corner as a book of no account, and by other acts of studied insolence, Kemal has disintegrated the temporal power of his faith, which the Wahabi leader, Ibn Saoud, though in possession of Mecca, has failed to restore.

Indeed, the violence of Kemal's modernism has militated against an alliance between Turkey and Afghanistan. King Amanullah has a youngest sister, the Princess Kubra Jan, a girl in her early twenties educated in Paris and Switzerland, whose hand has been sought by Kemal in marriage. Amanullah hesitated. He feared the heresies of Kemal and dreaded his own mullahs.

For this monarch has not wished to repudiate Islam. On the contrary, he has desired that Islam become efficient. What he has wanted is a Kabul that shall be as up-to-date as Tokio.

The population of Kabul is only 200,000 out of a nation that numbers about 8,000,000. Hence, in order to understand the unrest in Afghanistan, we need to see life, as it were, with the eyes of the tribesmen themselves. Like all mountainers, they are conservative. As the wild Highlanders of Scotland cling to the kilt and sporran, the dirk and the skirl of the pibroch, so do these mountaineers resist innnovations. With their precipitous ravines, so rugged, yet, in places, so fertile; with their majestic forests, so dark yet adorned with honeysuckle, rhododendron and hawthorn, they are entirely satisfied. They have always despised cities, Kabul included, and recently Kabul has admitted the foreigner. If electric lights, water supply, automobiles, a picture theatre and wireless be not of the devil, this magic is certainly not Afghan. If roads be built and the car supplants the camel, what will be left of Afghan independence? Foreigners are so sensitive. If they receive so much as a bullet in the chest they demand reprisals. Why cannot the foreigners leave the Afghan to his own devices?

Native Culture

Afghanistan, we must remember, has her own culture. In her mosques you will find manuscripts which, at this moment, the scribes are copying. "The gem-studded history" of Afzal Khan Khattak, the poetry of Abdur Rahman, the works of the "enlightened saint," Bayazid Ansari, are classics. Moreover, there is among these wanderers a grave courtesy, inspired by a sense of power. "May you never be tired" is a greeting on the high road, and "May God protect you" is the farewell to a departing guest. If there be the blood fued, it is at least according to a strict code of honor that the killer of one's kin can be killed.

Let us admit—so argue the mountaineers—that King Amanullah has greatly increased the volume of exports. For the Persian carpets which are in fact, woven on the Afghan looms in Herat; in return for the gum resin, the walnuts, the melons and other fruits which grow abundantly and of an excellent quality; for sugar cane and coffee, and grapes, there is good money to be had, the more the better. But is that all?

There are minerals. What about the telltale traces of gold that are washed by frequent streams from the shoulders of the Hindu-Kusha? What about the formerly famous silver mines in Badakshan, the ruby mines above the Oxus River, lead near Herat, coal, zinc, salammoniac, gypsum, nitre? To lure the prospector, here indeed are temptations. By the sacreligions avarive of the concessionaire is the pride of a hardy people to be abased? For the first time a nation, Montenegrin in its gallantry, is restive under the grip of Western penetration.

Western Standards

The King's answer has been that, if Afghanistan is to withstand the West she must achieve western standards. From Russia he accepts, therefore, a subsidy, and from Britain the right to import arms through India. It is by means of his army that he has tried to impose his will on the mountaineers. It is the way that England has dealt both with the Scots and the Irish. She has enrolled them and let them fight her battles.

For the modernist movement there is thus a good deal to be said. Under the pressure of Russia on one flank and of Britain on the other flank an ignorant and impoverished Afghanistan, however high spirited, cannot hope to avoid collapse. Take health. With an admirable climate and a vigorous ancestry the Afghan suffers unduly from disease, fevers, eye trouble and so on. He needs the scientific physician. What if Amanullah has used a loud-speaker? After all, that very quintessence of Islamic orthodoxy, Ibn Saoud himself, is now idling about in automobiles.

But there is one rule that every reformer in the East, from Peter the Great onwards, has always had to observe, and that is to have the rifles on his side. If Kemal could toss the Koran into a corner, this was the reason.

In Paris and London, King Amanullah, displaying a due sense of dignity, could afford to leave his bills unpaid. But to leave his army unpaid has been a very different matter. The soldiers prefer beverages to schools and roads.

London's new subway station cost more than $2,500,000.

English society hunters have found unusually good shooting in County Tyrone, Ireland, this season.

Children's races on small toboggans down frozen canals have been popular in Holland this winter.

Calcutta, India, recently sent 25,000 pounds of tea to idle coal miners in England.

People of the Netherlands ate more than $4,000,000 worth of oranges last year.

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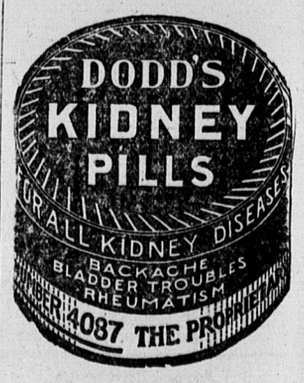

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