

F. B. CARVELL SCORES THE TARIFF GRAFT SCHEME

(Continued from page one.)

will see that there is the same unrest in the United States today as there was two years ago and I do not think a person can be blamed for prophesying that no matter which party may come into power as the result of the next election there will be a reduction of tariffs and the voice of the people will be a protest against the high taxation under which they are groaning now. Take any newspaper in the United States take the Boards of Trade, take any expression of public opinion and there you will find simply the outcry against the enormous cost of living.

Coming to the Dominion of Canada we find exactly the same condition of affairs, we find the same outcry going up from the people against the high cost of living. Who are better able to judge the political and the public barometer than our protectionist friends or the Manufacturers' Association? We find that away back in 1909 the Manufacturers' Association at their annual conference first intimated or proposed this idea of a Tariff Commission and a resolution was passed at that meeting embodying this doctrine and suggesting that the government should appoint such a commission. We heard very little about that Tariff Commission for the next year or two. It is true that just before the election the right hon. the leader of this House (Mr. Borden) advocated it as a plank in his platform. But let me show you what was the attitude of the gentlemen who were the originators and the fathers of this scheme, who have urged it along and who will benefit by it. When you learn the views of these gentlemen you will not have much difficulty in arriving at a conclusion as to who is behind this scheme and whom it will benefit and what the result and general scope of the investigations of this commission will be.

I find that at the meeting of the Manufacturers' Association held in Toronto in October last this matter was referred to by practically every speaker who discussed tariff questions. I have no quarrel with the Manufacturers' Association as individual members of the community. They are gentlemen who are working in their own interests and when working in their interests they probably believe they are working in the interests of Canada. They are controlling large industries, they are doing a great work for Canada, and I do not wish to say anything derogatory to the individual members. I do, however, say and I think I shall not be contradicted that the one aim and object of the Manufacturers' Association as an association is to secure as much protection as they possibly can for their manufactured products and to obtain their raw materials free of duty, wherever it is possible to do so. That I take as being the aim and object of the Manufacturers' Association of Canada. This matter was referred to by President Rowley in his address. He concludes that address as follows:

No matter what the cost may be, and no matter whose toes may be trodden upon, let us first get our tariff right and fair—That is right and fair from the manufacturers' standpoint.

—then let us ensure its stability, making from time to time only such slight modifications as the changed conditions of the country demand. As manufacturers we should be able, we should be willing to view the creation of a Tariff Commission with complacency; so I hope we will all facilitate this work as far as we can, by giving such data as we are able to supply.

You do not find any protest on the part of the Manufacturers' Association. The president says: Let us get our tariff right and fair and as manufacturers we can view the workings of this commission with complacency. But that is mild compared with statements made by the chairman of the Tariff Branch of the commission, Mr. Russell, of the Russell Motor Car Company of Toronto. Mr. Russell makes a very exhaustive report on practically every branch of the Canadian manufacturing industries, and when he comes to this particular branch he makes some remarks which I think are of more than ordinary importance when we consider the manner in which certain gentlemen on the other side of the House have received the suggestions or perhaps stronger terms which we have used against this Bill. The right hon. leader himself, I thought with more heat than was really necessary or perhaps en-

tirely proper in view of the splendid work which the Manufacturers' Association did for him in September last, took particular pains to disavow any connection with the Manufacturers' Association and even went so far as to say that only one member of that association had ever spoken to him about it and that member was opposed to it.

Well, we have to take the word of the right hon. gentleman, but I would like to know if the Minister of Finance would pledge his word to the same extent and I would like to know if the Minister of Trade and Commerce would make the same declaration as the Prime Minister has made. Does the Conservative party expect the people to believe that the Manufacturers' Association are not the originators of this scheme? Are not the men who are behind the Manufacturers' Association the men who are pushing this legislation along and are they not the men who will benefit by it? Why, you only have to take the history of the Conservative party since 1873, and the question is answered. The Manufacturers' Association and the high protectionists are the men who want this legislation and it is to pay them for their magnificent support in September last, and to carry out the principle advocated by them in all these years that this Bill is being promulgated. I make bold to say that on account of that very thing, more than anything else, I am opposed to this Bill. The Minister of Finance told us, and the supporters of the government have reiterated the statement, that it was never intended that the commission would have anything to do with making laws, and that the information they collect will be handed to the government and the government will frame the tariff as the government sees fit. That is true, taking the literal wording of the Bill, but what are the views of Mr. Russell, Chairman of the Tariff Branch of the Manufacturers' Association. I quote from 'Industrial Canada' for November, 1911, the words of Mr. Russell:

Usually commissions which have been appointed have been appointed for administrative work, for carrying out administration. This commission has to do an entirely different thing. It has to do no administration work but law-making work, the actual making of the laws for which the parliament of Canada will be responsible. The composition of that Tariff Commission and its ability to obtain information, the use which will be made of that information, whether public or private, and all that sort of thing is going to be of tremendous importance to the whole of Canada and to the manufacturing interests perhaps specially, and I think it is of tremendous importance that our tariff committee for this coming year shall be seized with the importance of that and prepare their recommendation accordingly.

Well, Sir, when you read that statement of the chairman of the Tariff Branch of the Manufacturers' Association, you have the thing in a nutshell; you have the very thing that the member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) contended for; you have the very thing for which the Liberal party of Canada is contending today, and you have the pith of the reasons why we ask to pass this legislation. Does anyone mean to tell me that the government are going to appoint a commission which will cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year and keep this commission doing nothing else but investigating. Remember that this commission is only going to make such investigation as the Minister of Finance requires them to make and that when the Minister of Finance asks this commission to make an investigation into the cost of production of any article in Canada and they submit a report of their findings, does any man mean to tell me that the government will not accept the findings of that commission in framing their tariff. Why did the government appoint this commission, why did the government give this commission such powers, why spend all this money on it if they do not accept their recommendation. No matter how you work it out, indirectly this commission is to make the tariff law of Canada.

Mr. MIDDLEBORO. Will the hon. gentleman show me any clause in the Bill which authorizes the commission to recommend any particular line of action.

Mr. CARVELL. I am surprised that

my hon. friend asked me that question. I tell my hon. friend that section 4 of this Bill provides what are the duties of the commission, and the hon. gentleman cannot show me where that commission has power to make one bit of investigation except under the direction and at the instigation of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. MIDDLEBORO. My hon. friend (Mr. Carvell) has not answered my question. The hon. gentleman said that if this commission made a recommendation the government would be bound to follow it, and I say there is no clause in the Bill which provides for any such thing.

Mr. CARVELL. I do not think my hon. friend does his intelligence the justice which it demands. In the first place I never said so. I said that no man could conceive of a government going to all that expense, and all this trouble unless they were to accept the findings of this commission, and I repeat it. And my hon. friend knows, and I repeat it, that they have no power to investigate anything except what they are directed to investigate by the Minister of Finance, or by the government, and my hon. friend knows they will make no investigation into anything only what they are told to investigate. I go further and I say that my hon. friend ought to know that they will only investigate that which the government wants them to investigate, and if the government wants to put a duty on a certain article they will send the commission after it, and they will be pretty liable to get the evidence which, in their opinion, will justify them in raising the duty. I believe this Bill should not be adopted because it is misleading; it will not produce the results expected of it in the way of taking evidence. The whole object of this Bill and the only powers conferred on the commission under this Bill are to investigate into cost, price, transportation, labour, &c., when so directed by the minister. My hon. friend from St. Antoine (Mr. Ames), spoke last night on this question, and he is a gentleman whose honesty when discussing tariff matters I always admire. The hon. member (Mr. Ames) told the whole story. He said that these gentlemen need not necessarily be Conservatives in order to have a place on this commission, but he said they must be high protectionists.

Mr. AMES. I beg your pardon; the words 'high protectionists' were not used by me. I said they must be in sympathy with the well known sentiment of the present government.

Mr. CARVELL. My hon. friend will not quarrel with me very much when I say that that means that they must be protectionists.

Mr. AMES. Yes, but I did not say anything about high protectionists. Mr. CARVELL. My hon. friend (Mr. Ames), said they are going to appoint a commission of protectionists, and he says this commission will not have any trouble in getting evidence, because, he says: 'we will furnish the evidence.' Well, that is just what we object to. When the minister sends out the commission to investigate the cost of boots and shoes, of course 'we' will furnish the evidence, and 'we' will take mighty good pains to see that no evidence gets before the commission except the evidence which justifies either a retention of the present duties or an increase as high as my hon. friend (Mr. Ames) can get it. That is the kind of evidence that this commission will get, and that is one reason why I object to it. I object to it again, because of the secret clauses in it. I do not believe the present parliament has any right to pry into a man's private affairs. The result of this will be that nine-tenths of the evidence which is adduced before this commission—because remember only evidence we will have in the ordinary working out of it will be the evidence of the manufacturers themselves—will be evidence which the protectionists and the protectionists' commission will consider as confidential, and therefore the public will not be allowed to have it.

The result will be that we shall have findings by this commission, but we shall not have the evidence on which those findings are based. The hon. member of St. Antoine (Mr. Ames), last evening said that we on this side of the House should welcome this commission as a means of getting information, but in the working out of this scheme, we shall have gone through western Canada from that day to this parading the fact that they had voted for the reduction or abolition of the duty on farm machinery. These hon. gentlemen did not want any further evidence in 1907; the hon. member for Portage la Prairie did not want any further evidence last year; but the government wants further evidence, because the government wants to show these men that they are wrong

gentlemen opposite talk about this haphazard tariff; but this haphazard tariff has got along pretty well so far as Canada is concerned, and the people of Canada have got along pretty well under this tariff. If you went to-day to the Departments of Trade and Commerce, Finance and Customs, I believe that you would get pretty nearly as much information as you would require in order to come to a pretty good conclusion as to what is necessary in framing a tariff for any branch of Canadian industry. I wonder if the hon. member for St. Antoine thinks that it is necessary to appoint a Tariff Commission to tell the government whether the duty of 30 per cent. on boots and shoes should be retained in the interest of this country, or raised to 35 or 40 per cent., when the fact is known to every man who thinks in Canada that the hides from which leather for those boots and shoes is made comes into this country free of duty. We had the admission of the hon. member for St. Antoine in this House the other evening that with a preference of only 5 per cent the Canadian manufacturers of boots and shoes could wrest the trade of Australia away from the United States; and then he tells us that I cannot make boots and shoes in Canada to compete with those from the United States without 30 per cent protection. Does he think the government wants further information on that point? If they ask the hon. member for St. Antoine, they will get all the information they want.

Mr. AMES. Is the hon. gentleman aware that the boot and shoe manufacturers of Canada were never able to persuade the Conservative government that they needed over 25 per cent protection, but that the Liberal government gave them 30 per cent without their asking for it?

Mr. CARVELL. I was not a member of that government, and therefore, I cannot answer my hon. friend's question; but I can hardly believe it—I do not say that offensively. If the hon. gentleman wants us to believe that the boot and shoe manufacturers of Canada never asked for more protection during the days of the Conservative government, they were a different class of people from the men who are manufacturing boots and shoes in Canada today. Now, my hon. friend from Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) this afternoon stated that he was not a high protectionist, but a low protectionist. Well, I have always a great deal of confidence in anything which that hon. gentleman says, because in my judgment he is one of the ablest men and possessors of one of the best reasoning minds in this House. My hon. friend from Portage la Prairie does not require information from a Tariff Commission to show him that the time has come when the duty on farm machinery should be reduced, because last year he introduced a resolution into this House, and spoke upon it on more than one occasion, declaring that the time had come when the duty on agricultural implements should be reduced. Do the other hon. gentlemen from western Canada want any further evidence? The manufacturers of farm machinery in Canada last year not only supplied two-thirds or more of the home market, but exported between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 of farm machinery to all the civilized countries of the globe, in competition with the whole world. In the face of that fact, do these hon. gentlemen want any further evidence from an expert Tariff Commission to enable them to decide whether the duty on farm machinery should be retained at 17½ per cent, or reduced?

I will tell you in what respect I think the evidence of an expert Tariff Commission will be useful to our hon. friends opposite. The primary object of this measure is, I believe, to get at just such wavering minds as the hon. member for Portage la Prairie and other members from the western portion of this Dominion. In 1907 thirteen hon. members supporting the Conservative party did not want any further evidence to convince them that the time had arrived when the duty should be taken off agricultural implements, and I see two or three of those gentlemen before me tonight. So firmly were they convinced of the necessity of that demand that on the third reading of the Tariff Bill they moved an amendment, and compelled their own leader to vote against it, in order to put themselves on record; and these men have gone through western Canada from that day to this parading the fact that they had voted for the reduction or abolition of the duty on farm machinery. These hon. gentlemen did not want any further evidence in 1907; the hon. member for Portage la Prairie did not want any further evidence last year; but the government wants further evidence, because the government wants to show these men that they are wrong

(Continued on page three.)

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From Sentinel Columns of
February 13th, 1892

It is expected that Rev. A. Lucas will occupy the pulpit of the Reformed Baptist Church next Sunday morning.

Wm. Alterton, one of Jacksonville's oldest and most highly respected farmers died at his residence, from paralysis, on Sunday. Deceased was a brother-in-law of Sir Leonard Tilley.

The Law and Order League held another meeting, in the W. C. T. U. hall, Monday evening, when a constitution was adopted, and further progress made in perfecting the organization.

An interesting discussion on the question of Imperial Federation took place at the Debating Club Tuesday evening. The leaders were Rev'ds C. T. Phillips and Wm. Dobson.

The school trustees are making arrangements for the opening of a new school, in the college building, in order to provide for a number of applicants for whom at present there is not room in the existing schools. Sir John Thompson, Hon. Mr. B. O. and Finance Minister Foster are this week in Washington. The precise object of the visit of these visitors does not appear to be known, but it is hoped one result will be the arrival of some sort of a practical reciprocity agreement between the Canadian and Washington governments.

The following are the officers of Woodstock Lodge, I. O. G. T., for the current quarter: Mrs. S. Vanwart, C. T.; Wm. Gibbon, V. T.; Miss Olmstead, S. J. T.; Miss Carrie Lawson, P. V. S.; Miss Ethel Lawson, F. S.; E. Milmore, T.; Miss Mary Morin, Chap.; Miss Mina Law, M.; Arthur Grey, I. G.; Frank King, O. G.; C. E. Clark, A. S.; Guy Vanwart, D. M.

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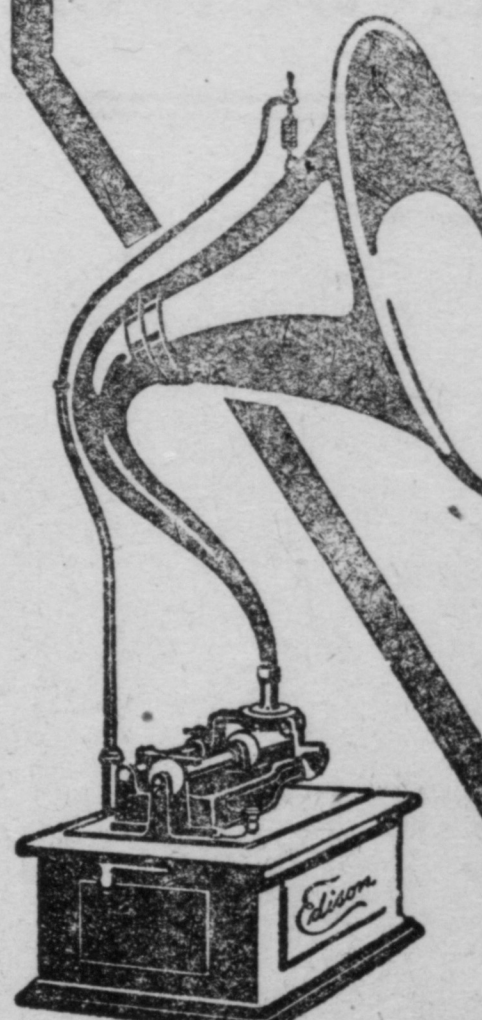
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The Sentinel will be pleased to publish items of news sent to the office. Interesting notes do not appear sometimes as parties interested do

not acquaint us of the facts. We try to gather all interesting matter, which is no easy task unless our readers assist us. Kindly send us each week marriages, deaths, church news, accidents, visitors, lodge news, removals and everything of public interest.

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