

The Daily Mail

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♦ Maritime — Moderate winds, ♦

A SERIOUS SITUATION

An interview with Mr. F. deL. Clements on the potato situation, which is to be found in another part of this issue, makes very interesting reading. He makes use of some figures, which will no doubt open the eyes of Col. McLeod and other Tory flag-flappers who two years ago told the farmers of York that the American market would be of no benefit to them and that under reciprocity Aroostook potato growers would put them out of business. Mr. Clements, although a Conservative in politics, contended at that time that our farmers would benefit enormously from reciprocity. For taking this stand he was denounced by the Tory press and it was said by The Fredericton Gleaner that he wanted reciprocity so he could be in a position to import potatoes from Maine to the detriment of our own farmers. The experience of the past few months shows who was right and who was wrong.

Mr. Clements tells us that since the new U.S. tariff went into effect, for every carload of potatoes shipped to Ontario the wonderful "home market" of the Tories, ten carloads have found their way across the line to the American market. He also tells us that so far this season one million dollars have been paid to the farmers of this province in exchange for potatoes and that two-thirds of the crop, or two million dollars' worth, is still in the farmers' hands and cannot be sold. This is certainly a most serious situation and one which will affect all classes in New Brunswick. It is a most serious matter for the County of York, which is one of the largest potato-growing counties in the Maritime Provinces. In this connection it is well to call attention to the fact that had reciprocity carried two years ago, our potatoes would have entered the American market free of duty where European potatoes, which furnished an excuse for the present embargo, would have been shut out.

It rather seems to us that the embargo placed on Canadian potatoes by the United States government is a matter of far greater concern to the farmers of York than Col. McLeod's flag-waving imperialism. What do the farmers themselves think about it?

CHEAPER FOOD

Despatches from Washington of December 15th give an illuminating glimpse into the effects of the tariff on the cost of living which no amount of Borden high tariff sophistry can offset. The force of the argument is rendered stronger in that it was issued from non-partisan sources and published throughout Canada in Tory as well as Liberal papers.

The Washington despatch stated that the U.S. government had been able to force down the price of beef for the American army by facing the packers with competition from Argentina. The American meat packer had been in the habit of fixing their prices for army supplies so as to get what railway men call "all the traffic will bear." Naturally they made big profits.

Then came the Underwood tariff with meat on the free list. The Argentine Republic became a competitor with Canada and other countries to supply the U.S. with beef. The Argentine packers undersold the American combines and secured several large contracts for the U.S. army.

Then the American packers saw a great light; the American government got cheap beef. A government statement was issued showing that immediately after this it was found that at every U.S. army post the American meat packers had reduced their prices so as to exactly meet Argentine competition. The result was the saving of many thousands of dollars to the U.S. government.

Secretary Daniels of the U.S. government, declared:

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"Under the old high tariff this saving could not have been effected, but the recent Underwood Tariff Bill allows the importation of meats free from duties."

If this taking off of the duty in the States gives such a check to the packers' combine and in a few weeks even with the small U.S. army, the saving of many thousands of dollars has been effected, what will the ultimate saving be to the 100,000,000 meat eating people? And if the saving on beef alone is so great what will the ultimate saving be on the general cost of living with free food?

Last year Canada imported meats and poultry to the extent of \$5,338,673, and the people who ate it paid \$1,040,547 duty for the privilege.

When the Liberal policy of free food is adopted, not only will this system of taxation by the mouthful be swept away, but the Canadian market will be so opened to outside competition that the Canadian and American packers who now dominate the Canadian eaters, will have to do as they have done in the U.S., reduce prices to hold their market.

The Canadian eater has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the adoption of the Laurier policy of free food. Every Canadian is an eater, and most of them need cheaper food.

BURTT'S CORNER BAND GAVE SUCCESSFUL CONCERT

The Burtt's Corner Band made its first appearance before the public Friday night when a very enjoyable and highly successful concert was given at Potesters' Hall, Burtt's Corner. The new organization which is under the leadership of Bandmaster James White acquitted itself very creditably. Although the night was stormy the hall was crowded.

The program was as follows:—
March, "Troop A", Band
Overture, "Songs from the West," and
Solo, Miss Shepherd, with accompaniment by band, "That's How I Need You."

Instrumental duet, cornet and baritone, Bandmaster White and Bandsman D. Jones.

Waltz, "Titania," Band
Instrumental quartet, baritone, alto, cornet and bass, Bandsman D. Jones, Bandsman B. Jones, Bandmaster James White, Bandsman B. Lawrence

Serenade, "In the Twilight", Band
March, "Rank and File," Band
Vocal quartet, Misses Ruby Merrithew, Irene Jones, Nina Burtt and Ina Colter, accompanied by Miss Myrtle Lawrence, "Sing Me an Old Fashioned Song."

The program was concluded by a performance by two laughable athletes.

Dr. O. E. Morehouse, M.P.P., who was present at the close of the musical program, made a brief address in which he complimented the band and its leader upon the degree of efficiency attained during the short time that it had been organized.

PHILOLOGISTS MEET AT HARVARD

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 29—Philologists from nearly all of the important institutions of learning in the United States, as well as from some of the Canadian and European universities, met at Harvard University today for the opening of the annual meeting of the American Philological Association. At the same time and place the Modern Language Association of America opened its annual meeting. Both meetings will continue over tomorrow and Wednesday.

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NEWS FORECAST FOR COMING WEEK

Washington, D.C., Dec. 27—A New Year without a public reception at the White House will be an altogether novel experience for Washingtonians next Thursday. The oldest member of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association cannot remember a time when the year was ushered in without observance of the time-honored custom which has now been upset by the decision of President Wilson.

There will be nothing in the way of entertainment to compensate the general public for the loss of what it has so long considered its special privilege of shaking hands with the President on New Year's Day. For those in official life, however, there will be numerous functions to mark the day. Secretary and Mrs. Bryan will give the customary state breakfast to the diplomatic corps, while other cabinet officers and those high in the government service will observe the day by keeping open house.

As usual, the first of the year will see a number of important measures of legislation come into operation. A number of new laws in the various states will be of more than ordinary interest and importance. The Barnes amendment to Nevada's divorce law will come into effect on January 1. It requires an applicant for divorce to be a resident of the state for one year instead of six months as heretofore. A stringent law for the curtailment of the liquor traffic will become effective in Arkansas. In Wisconsin the much-discussed "eugenic marriage" law will become effective. Workingmen's compensation laws will come into force in Connecticut, California and Ohio, the Ohio law being pronounced by experts to be the most advanced act of its kind in the country.

Many educational and scientific bodies will hold their annual meetings during the week. The American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in Atlanta, the Archeological Institute of America in Montreal, the American Philological Association in Cambridge, Mass.; the American Historical Association in Charleston, S.C., and the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lloyd Youman's has gone to St. John where in the future he expects to reside, his parents having moved there.

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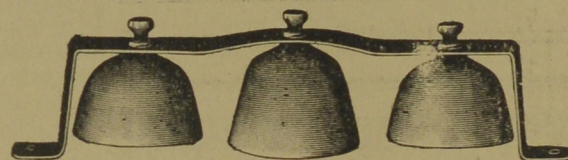
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