

Mr. Parsons Defends the Present Fiscal System

Head of Canadian Manufacturers' Association Delivers a Vigorous Address--- Takes a Rap at Western Grain Growers Who Oppose Protection---Says Labor and Capital Must Stand Together---After the War Problems are Discussed.

Montreal, June 12—Opening his address as president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association here today, Mr. Parsons said: "There are two subjects of sufficient importance to claim our particular consideration this year and upon which we should focus our attention. The first question has to do with the relationship between employers and employees, and the second problems of tariff, particularly as affecting manufacturers and agriculturists. In discussing these topics I am sure you will agree with me in saying that we should lay aside any ingrained prejudices or conclusions which would prevent us from reaching decisions that are unselfish broadminded, and national in scope.

Capital and Labor

"Let us consider the question which is usually dealt with under the heading of 'Capital and Labor'. We have been learning many things during the past four years. It would be a great pity if the fine idealism which is being preached could not be turned to useful account as far as possible. If

democracy is going to be anything more than a label on an empty bottle it must characterize our human relationships and actions. We have perhaps unconsciously, ignored to some extent the human element in giving effect to the relationship existing between employer and employee. The old days when in small shops the so-called "master" worked with his men often at the same bench, and each called the other by name, there was continuous friendly intercourse which resulted in producing good relations throughout. Afterwards with the introduction of machinery there was brought about an industrial revolution. Instead of the small shop with its few workers there was the great factory with many hands, so that it soon came to pass that employer and employee did not often meet or even know each other. It was quite natural, therefore, to expect that disagreements would arise between the two chief interests involved that have led here and there to occurrences of which either side could possibly be proud.

Must Stand Together

"Looking around us, and especially in old world countries, though not unknown even in Canada, there are armed camps of capital and labor I have no hesitation in saying that these should find some method of union. These two classes must stand together in their own interests. There must be a meeting ground where antagonism and suspicion shall not dwell. Now the question is as to how to bring about a better relationship. No one will question the advisability of trying to regain an attitude akin to that which prevailed in the seventeenth century when there was a glory and a pride in trade and craft, which has been largely lost out of our industrial life. What a day it would be if we could make a song of our work instead of a dirge of our grievances. Capital on the one hand must realize the duty of caring for the welfare of all those associated in industry, and labor must be ready to cooperate to the fullest possible extent in the spirit of helpfulness. My own opinion, is that each individual industry will work out its own plans applicable particularly to the special conditions governing the concern.

Mr. Parsons then outlined the various cooperative schemes attempted as representatives of labor and capital in manufacturing enterprises, insurance and annuities, and remarked:

The Tariff Discussed

"More than a generation ago the national policy was brought into existence and, therefore, the great majority of men doing business that day

in Canada do not remember the hard and trying years before its introduction in 1878. At that time the country was making little headway under a revenue tariff of twelve and a half cents. We are now in danger, especially on account of the propaganda of one section of our population, of failing to profit by our experience, losing our balance and blindly yielding to the demand for undermining that which has proved to be that great bulwark of our nation, industrial and commercial life.

Agitation in the West

It was understood when union government was formed, that the agitation of the western grain growers for the abolition of the tariff would not be continued during the period of the war. This has been denied by some of the grain growers during the session of parliament just ended, but a newspaper report of an address by Hon. T. A. Cramer, at Winnipeg, in the election campaign credits him with saying that the tariff is not the issue at the present time. The great outstanding issue is the winning of this war. "The manufacturers, therefore, accepted this view and would have respected the same throughout if others had done so. We have found however, that in the western provincial legislatures resolutions have been passed asking for the removal of the duty on agricultural implements as a so-called "war measure". In farmers papers and other organs there has been carried on a constant agitation against the tariff and denunciation of the manufacturers. Grain growers have recently challenged manufacturers to come out openly and declare themselves upon the tariff question. Some measure of action has been forced upon us and it is, therefore, necessary to deny that any of the unfair, erroneous and misleading statements that have been made for the purpose of trying to prejudice the minds of the public against manufacturers and manufacturing interests of this country. "Our statements should be prefaced with the remark that the manufacturers of this country along with all other classes, are vitally interested in the success of the agriculturists and will not be satisfied until all inequalities or unfair burdens, are accomplished. It surely is not necessary to do this however, at the expense of other classes and at the risk of our great industrial fabric, built up with great care and national efficiency.

Demand for Reciprocity

"We are told that especially in the west, peopled so largely with American citizens of an excellent class, is more or less of a demand for reciprocity, if not closer connection, with the United States. While as Canadians we value more than ever our friendship with the great nation to the south of us, yet we believe we have an important part to play as an integral portion of the great British Empire and in working out our own future. When there was an agitation for reciprocity in 1911, and which certain elements in our population are now trying to revive, the majority of the people decided against it and in favor of a continuance of our national, political and industrial policy and entity. The war demands of reciprocity that have been created are hardly a valid argument for their operation in normal times from a national standpoint.

"It would appear from the propaganda being waged with such vehemence against the measures of Canada that the chief view presented is that the tariff is retained solely to benefit the manufacturers and to oppress all other classes of the people, the farming community in particular.

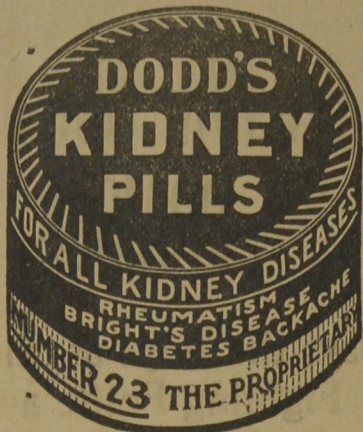
Cannot Keep Silent

"It is therefore quite evident that the time has come when the manufacturers of this country can no longer keep silent, either in their own interests, the interests of labor, or the

(Continued on page 3.)

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