

Tin Plate Cartel

(Continued from Page One)

The Speaker explained that a combine existed, created by foreign interests for the regulation of quotas and prices, serving to eliminate competitive buying and enabling the disposing of an inferior quality of tin at disproportionate prices. The result in this had been smaller prices for raw materials of canneries and the decreasing in the scale of workmen's wages claiming that such evils were among the causes that make for communism.

In addressing the Legislature, Mr. Doane said:

In continuing Mr. Speaker might I give a congratulatory word to those who have so ably and so eloquently preceded me in the debate. I believe that they have sustained the best traditions of this assembly and have reflected honor upon their respective counties. Might I also associate myself with those who have expressed a profound sorrow over the calamitous circumstances which have deprived this province of two of its most valued citizens. As a member of this legislature and as an associate of the late Dr. Roberts I was appraised of his high qualities of heart and of mind, of his zeal in the public service and of his kindly and lovable disposition. Like the Premier I was a former classmate of the late Mr. Ryan and even upon the threshold of life recognized his outstanding abilities and his prospective achievements. I will not dwell further upon a matter so poignant with the elements of sorrow nor further rasp the heart strings of those most intimately concerned. Rather will I extend to the latter my keenest sympathy in their sad bereavement, offering to them a reassuring consolation that they who have departed have left us with all their laurels green and with their honors full upon them.

Our Sane Empire

Touching matters of current import, previous speakers have recalled that during the past summer representatives of the various units of the empire assembled in old England's Capitol to render unto Caesar the tribute of national affection. Not, I believe, by reason of his noble lineage nor in respect to his long ancestral line. I cannot hold with the Honorable, the Leader of the Opposition in reference to its kaleidoscope of color nor its pageantry of awe, nor can I agree with the Honorable representative of the City of Saint John that history points to sovereignty as a stimulating influence in the propagation of faith. If corruption followed as he affirms, I might suggest to the Honorable Member that his early kings did little to correct it. Might I also suggest to the honorable member that for the benefit of the faith he reveres, he should place his hopes in something higher than human agency to give it efficacy and to render it potent and enduring. Neither do I believe in relation to the person of one untried in leadership or in statecraft but rather was their homage and ours a demonstrative outlet of our natural appreciation for beneficent laws and for well regulated institutions. There is a saneness indeed in our common laws which has permitted to every integral part of the Empire its privilege of local expression. There is a judgment in our common legislation which has moulded conflicting opinion and divergent thought along reciprocal lines of amity and of compromise and conciliation. There is a justice in our common institutions which has accorded to every individual in the Empire freedom in its widest range,—liberty in the triple aspect of thought and of word and of action,—liberty of conscience, liberty of speech and liberty of enterprise. Saneness and judgment and justice, these are the rocks upon which our destiny has been founded with liberty as our guiding light more luminous than the star of military achievement. May it forever shine and may we forever glory in its brilliance. There is moreover a staidness and solidity in our common character which has guaranteed for us immunity from those catyisms of thought and of action which have characterized the history of less favored nations. If we pause momentarily to consider the kindly mothers of France changed overnight as it were by the wave of a hand to the wild women in red and the kirtled skirts rebellion, seated in the market place—knitting—watching the fall of the guillotine and crying aloud for blood and for vengeance, we can envision among our kindred people no such startling metamorphosis. It is difficult also to visualize long lines of Canadian manhood in shirted regimentation of directed thought and of mental process, whereas notwithstanding our diversified religious thought we cannot grasp a general repudiation of the Master nor a wholesale withdrawal from Christian ideals and Christian principles. This civic security and these rights and privileges which are ours are enjoyed by reason of our position as a component part of the great British Commonwealth of Nations. These rights and privileges for which nations have fought, for which millions have died and which have come to us through the years to the tread of marching feet should be tenaciously held and should be as jealously guarded. It is commendable

therefore that the present administration are taking such measures along sound and constitutional lines rather than resorting to expedients which are non-operative and strutting in the long pants of provincialism.

At this point, Sir, might I congratulate the Honorable the Provincial Secretary Treasurer on the masterly presentation of his budget. I will not personally comment upon our financial structure, rather will I permit its defence to rest in the hands of the responsible heads of departments who are best fitted to this duty through their qualifications of person and position. I might state, however, that even the status of the Opposition has shown an improvement, in as much as press reports advise their present intimate has only six claws, whereas their former associates must have been more adequately equipped, having regard to the state of the treasury box when the old administration was swept from power.

Government Achievement

It has been suggested by the members of the Opposition that they have certain parliamentary duties to perform, that their's is the prerogative of criticism. We concede that such is their responsibility. Conversely there attaches to us a corresponding duty to place before the electorate of this province a true and comprehensive picture of stewardship in the regulation of public affairs. To all of us in this life are granted certain attributes. We are unfortunately not equally endowed in matters of wealth, in matters of position and in point of attainments, but to each and all of us has been granted the power of appreciation and I believe that we should be duly appreciative of the masterly conduct of public affairs under its present leadership. I believe that I would be very remiss in gratitude if I did not express my appreciation on behalf of the constituency which I have the honor in part to represent for the many social services recently extended. Old Age Pensions have heartened the ill and the aged, have solaced the dying and have given revivifying life to those less infirm. Free school books have been restored, dust-free pavements provided, winter communications rendered safer and more practical and to us in particular has been accorded the benefits of hydro-electric service. Extension has been made to the Eastern coast and it is now contemplated to further extend to the Parish of West Isles. As indicative of public reception to this beneficent measure I quote verbatim a telegram received from the Deer Island Board of Trade when notice was given that their application for service had been favorably considered. "Members of the Deer Island Board of Trade heartily congratulate New Brunswick Government on the consummation of its life-time dream, hydro for Deer Island. Signed V. H. Bradford Jr., Secretary Deer Island Board of Trade." May I join in the sentiment therein expressed and in addition thank the government and the Honorable Chairman of the Hydro-electric Commission together with all those who have aided in making this service possible.

Our Fisheries

I might also extend my thanks to this administration for the interest which they have taken in the development of our fisheries. Trade emissaries are presently in the Caribbean Sea in an endeavor to stimulate new trade and to re-engage the attention of former contacts. I agree the Government has been very fortunate in its choice of delegates. Mr. Guphill, former member of this legislature, should have a practical knowledge of all matters pertaining to the dried and smoked fish industry; Mr. Calder, while perhaps not similarly equipped from a practical standpoint, has undoubted qualifications and I believe that no one will deny his persuasive capacities as a salesman. That undoubted possibilities exist may be gauged from the fact that fish consumption in this area up to the depression period and to years of trade restrictions had shown progressive advances. As regards Trinidad and Tobago more than half of Canada's exports to those islands in 1930 were made up of two commodities, flour and fish, these two staples in the every day diet of the majority of the people having been firmly entrenched on this market for many years. Unspecified fish including dried and salted fish of all kinds was greatly in excess of canned fish, but the latter reached the very important total of \$110,463.32. Of this amount \$87,531.00 represented fish of Canadian origin.

The total canned fish imports to Jamaica in 1929 reached a total of 1,288,751 pounds, valued at \$169,281.92 divided as to countries of origin as follows: United Kingdom, 249,138 pounds; Canada, 760,998 pounds; United States, 219,697 pounds with respective values of \$59,119, \$118,812 and \$34,000. In Antigua over 1,300,000 pounds dried and pickled fish were imported, the total quantity originating in Canada. Approximately 29,000 pounds in St. Kitts and 15,000 in St. Vincent. The summary of imports for Grenada places fish under the heading of dried, salted and canned without regard to special classification. The total imports for the year 1929 are in excess of 1,000,000 pounds, with 500,000 pounds of Canadian origin. Statistics with respect to canned fish imported into Barbados

are very meagre, but, during the fiscal year 1929, 2,293,600 pounds, to a value of \$410,882.04 are placed under the heading of "Fish canned preserved, salted or smoked." Of this amount 1,912,960 pounds to a value of \$165,334.40 were of Canadian origin. The general trend of business may, in addition, be evidenced by the following percentages: United Kingdom, 33.9; Canada, 18.7; Newfoundland, 2.6; other British territories, 15; United States, 19.6; other foreign territories, 10.2.

Significant indeed is the advance of Canadian canned fish imports in the West Indies from \$72.50 in the non-treaty year of 1912 to \$77,000 in 1920 when the first treaty was put into effect and by progressive stages to \$170,000 for the year presently under review. I am not so confident however with respect to some of the other countries being surveyed. Columbia has been mentioned as having a population of eight million people but has a very involved system of exchange control which I believe would prove a serious handicap to Canadian exporters. With regard to Venezuela, transportation facilities would prove practically insurmountable touching deliveries to Caracas and Puerto Gabello. Some success might be found in Bolivar City of the Orinoco Valley where shipments could be effected from the City of Saint John, with transshipment arrangements at Trinidad at a very moderate carriage. Trade restrictions would I am afraid affect removal of contracts in Santo Domingo. In this connection it might be noted that former importers having trade agencies in Halifax have removed the latter to Eastport at which point Canadian fish is accepted with 40 per cent moisture. Becoming nationalised as an American product, it is reprocessed and shipped to Santo Domingo under free duty arrangements. Costa Rica and Panama however are special points of Canadian interest. Some doubt also might be expressed as to whether the earnest efforts which are now being made would have any lasting utility unless they were consistently followed up and supported by beneficial trade agreements. In this connection we might again point out that in 1925 a trade agreement between Canada and British West Indies was concluded with a view to extending and increasing their trade relations and improving their means of communication. This agreement officially affirmed the principle of granting preferences, the one to the other, on goods of their produce and manufacture as tending to increase their mutual trade and as generally promoting the welfare and advancement of British North America. To what extent they were justified in their conferences and resultant agreements may be gauged from the following return showing the Canadian proportion of trade and the effect of the trade treaty.

Exports from Canada to the West Indies in 1912 which was a non-treaty year were less than \$5,000,000. Following a first treaty put into effect in 1920 trade had advanced to \$24,000,000. Whereas the percentage of general trade in 1912 was 8.6 per cent it is significant that the proportion of Canadian trade in 1929 was 18.2 per cent.

Survey Suggestions

I have consistently pressed on the floor of this House a general survey of our needs and our possibilities having agreed to the fact that the West Indies treaties are coming up for revision during the current year; having regard also to the fact that the total general trade in the past few years has shown a recession of some \$30,000,000. Might I therefore again suggest the hands of our trade emissaries may be supported by concurrent action in stressing the necessity of treaty reconstruction and revision to the Minister of Finance and the Department of Trade and Commerce. I must also mention with pleasure the fact that a survey of our fisheries has been made during the past summer. It is a matter of special satisfaction to me in as much as I believe that I was the first to suggest such a necessity. As far ago as 1933 I drew the matter to the attention of the present Premier. I again stressed this feature in the first speech I made on the floor of this House when I had the honor of moving the Address in reply. It is true that a persistent campaign of propaganda has been conducted in the press in my County pointing to a different authorship. However the important point is that some benefit might eventually accrue for the fishermen of my constituency and to those following this arduous trade in other districts of the province. A survey has been conducted and approved and is now under consideration by this government, I might suggest that it did not quite follow the lines which I personally would have wished, but nevertheless I am given to understand that a fairly comprehensive review of the situation of our fishing population has been made. There has been some criticism with regard to avenues of information being neglected. Some criticism indeed with respect to the investigator making repeated visits to special areas and ignoring others where authoritative detail might have been more adequately supplied. I had some doubt also on reconsideration as to the efficacy of an advisory board, believing that a survey only would serve as a best utility, leaving to the Minister of Fisheries the responsibility of sel-

ecting his own board of direction. There is no question that our fishery problems have never been in as safe and efficient hands. I believe indeed that the present Minister of Fisheries has done more for the industry generally and for this province in particular than has any incumbent hitherto occupying his high office of State. I rather felt therefore after consideration of this subject that with a survey and co-operation on our part the selective decision of the Minister might have been the proper expedient.

Air Advisory Board

I was inclined also to believe that a local advisory board would prove restrictive in the matter of informative and constructive suggestion. Our fisheries are so dependent on export trade that I felt great consideration should have been given to this most important feature. I find however on investigation that our great export houses were never consulted and important shippers of fish along our coast were ignored. Personally I suggested that the Canadian Trade Commissioner for the West Indies who was a native of this province and a former resident of Grand Manan might have been called into conference. With his knowledge of markets and trade contacts and of importers he might have given invaluable information with respect to foreign outlets. It might be suggested also that the survey as made and suggestions as approved by the Board of Inquiry can be only of a temporary utility unless the great channels of tariff reconstruction and of transportation facilities are sounded. These are points which are most essential to its lasting and permanent benefit. I trust that this comment will not be overlooked in any representations which are made to the Minister of Fisheries.

Tariff Reconstruction

Tariff reconstruction has so long been considered as being solely within the purview of the Dominion Parliament that we have to some degree lost our idea of the responsibility which we owe to our people. I contend that whosoever has the final voice of direction, that all matters which pertain to the benefit and the welfare of our citizens should come under review by any governing body irrespective of whether it is Civic, or Municipal, or Provincial. If injustice or discrimination exists, remedial measures should be suggested and should be supported by the collective force and the prestige of this assembly. Having this viewpoint I might direct your attention to the tinplate racket inasmuch as it affects the workmen of our province and brings prejudicial influence to bear upon maritime industry. As canners and packers of allied fish products, this industry is a heavy consumer of tinplate as variously defined in schedule A of the Customs Tariff. Such plate is essential to the making of containers and for years no plate of a class or kind suitable in the undertaking was manufactured in Canada. It was necessary to effect importations. The chief sources of supply being the United States and Great Britain. Tariff restrictions were essentially in favor of importations from Great Britain but due to the exigencies of trade, certain quantities had to be drawn from the United States. The contributing causes toward securing American plate were its superior quality and the necessity of having prompt deliveries, the British service at times proving inadequate. The latter necessity was twofold that of keeping plants in operation and of maintaining continuity of supply. Initially and under original classification sufficient protection was given to promote Empire connections through tariff schedules tin-plate under the British preferential tariff being entered free of duty whereas under the intermediate and general tariff imports were assessed at a 15 per cent ad valorem duty. In addition the benefits of ocean freight rates as against higher transportation costs of rail haul were open and available showing a wide margin in favor of British sources of supply. Under these provisions freedom of the industry was experienced, freedom to purchase in any market at competitive prices, at the same time assuring to the Canadian Government a generous contribution by way of customs duties. The eye of exploitation however was opened and it was discovered that here was an opportunity for predatory action. As a subterfuge in the removal of competitive features a tinning plant was opened at Ojibway, Ontario. Its purpose was not to import black sheets from Great Britain to be coated with tin and by a departmental ruling to render the finished product as of a class or kind produced in this dominion. Classification was immediately affected. The duty imposed was raised to 20 per cent ad valorem, dumping duties, excise duties, excise and sales tax were added bringing the total assessment on plate of American origin in certain instances up to 54 per cent of the invoice value.

To summarize therefore, the international combine created by foreign interests for the regulation of quotas and prices serves to eliminate competitive buying and perpetuates the laxity of tin plate manufactures by enabling them to dispose of inferior quality at disproportionate costs. In all of this as an unwitting participant is the Canadian Government through the special dumping duties comprising a preferential feature in the cus-

toms tariff. The result is, of course, important to the industry. It affects not only the manufacturer, it is much wider in scope than the personal interest of the producer.

It marks the action of predatory aggression by foreign capitalistic interests. If we are to combat communism and its influence we must start at its source and not wait until its originating causes have become deeply entrenched and firmly rooted. These are the features which lead to strife and contention, these are the builders of world turmoil, the underlying causes of recurring depression. These are matters which must and shall be rectified by constitutional means or else the great masses of humanity will eventually attend to their correction.

The will of the people is paramount, it may be temporarily restrained, it may be deterred in the execution of its purpose but it cannot be permanently denied in its fulsome expression. I trust that the collective force and expression of this government may be given to effecting remedial measures toward pointing out to those charged with the responsibility the necessity for favorable action.

A National Park

Finally, might I comment on another matter which is very close to the hearts of the people of Charlotte, with reference, Sir, to the establishment of the National Park. Commenting upon this I do not wish to weary this house nor do I wish to offend my good friends of the Counties of Victoria, of Queens and of Albert. I might assure this house and the good citizens of my constituency, I have the greatest admiration for them. I believe that in all efforts to secure

the park site for their respective constituencies, they have played the game fairly and squarely and to the admiration of the representatives of Charlotte. I might indeed say, Sir, that from their attitude and their kindly disposition I have even at times mistaken them for citizens of my County. However, while unfortunately I am not familiar with the location they have endorsed, I am certain that I could never mistake the latter for the location presented in the County of Charlotte. I have upon previous occasions remarked on its beauty, its accessibility and its maritime advantages.

Might I today stress on other points, namely that of common justice to the County I represent. It might be pointed out, special advantages have been granted at different times to other constituencies and special concessions, and special facilities accorded by action of preceding governments but so far to my knowledge no corresponding concessions have been made to Charlotte County. I might point out it has been contended we were too close to the American border. I might state, Sir, however, that this was as it has ever been a contention adverse to the interests of Charlotte. In the settlement of this country, in the days of loyalist migration while rich farming lands were granted to other settlers they were placed along the shores of Charlotte, disbanded regiments and Matean boatmen as a protective measure. That as part and parcel of the contract of Confederation railway facilities were given to our east coast which were denied to the southern shore of New Brunswick. We have L'Etang Harbour, the

second best harbour in the world and so pronounced by the British admiralty, lying vacant—with docking facilities, denuded of shipping and of traffic, owing to the importunities of other sections of this province. They have in St. Andrews a harbour equal to or holding finer possibilities than any other seaport.

It is time, therefore, I believe, that some recognition should be given to this grand old County which after all is part and parcel of the Province of New Brunswick.

I request, therefore, Sir, that this house should give favorable attention to our request. Should it do so, Mr. Speaker, I will not contend, that the birds will select their sweetest melodies but I do suggest that the deep sympathetic ocean will dance with delight and the citizens of Charlotte will be assured that their faith in the purpose and integrity of the representatives of this Province has been justified. As far as Government action is concerned no longer let it be "the sun kissed waters of the Passamaquoddy."

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