

The Daily Mail

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FARMERS OF NO ACCOUNT

In a recent number of the Trade Bulletin of Montreal, the official organ of the Produce Trade of Canada, we find the following, interesting paragraph concerning the Underwood Tariff Bill:

"A letter received by a firm here from a Boston merchant gave it as his opinion that the tariff bill would not pass the senate before November and possibly not before June. It will be all the better for consumers in Canada if it does not pass at all, as it is framed for the benefit of American consumers at the expense of our own people. THE FARMERS ON THIS SIDE ARE THE ONLY ONES TO REAP ANY GOOD FROM IT."

The Bulletin, which no doubt voices the sentiments of the big interests of Canada, has certainly let the cat out of the bag. It thinks that the Underwood Tariff Bill should not pass at all because forsooth the farmers of Canada are the only ones who will reap any good from it. Now wouldn't that jar your mother's preserves. The farmers who are generally admitted by politicians on both sides to be the backbone of the country are to be benefited, therefore the Wilson tariff bill should not become law. The Bulletin practically tells its readers in effect that the farmers, are a lot of bushmen, and are not worthy of any consideration. They must be kept down so that the privileged classes may continue to fatten at their expense. Their only object in life should be to till the soil, pay taxes and maintain branch customs houses. They should not be allowed to buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest for fear that the interests of the consumer may be allowed to suffer. That is certainly a strange doctrine to preach in a country like Canada where sixty-five per cent. of the population derive their living from the soil. A policy that will confer the greatest good upon the greatest number used to be looked upon by a great many people as fairly sound, and this being so we cannot for the life of us see how Canada is going to be injured by a tariff bill, which it is admitted will benefit the farmers. If we were without farmers in this country the interests of the consumers would not be a cause for a great deal of worry as we would have none. We happen to be favored with both, however, and their interests are very closely interwoven. Make the farmer prosperous and never fear the consumer will be able to take care of himself.

Waving the old flag is certainly a great game with the Tories. It seems to have been overdone at the Toronto demonstration.

SPEAKER SPOULE'S THANKS

In a recent issue the Orange Sentinel, that bulwark of Protestant Conservatism, published this notice:

"The following letter has been received by the secretary of Diamond L. O. B. L., No. 1474, from Ottawa:

"Allow me, through this, to acknowledge receipt of the resolutions passed by Diamond L.O.B.L., No. 1474, on 10th March, 1913, endorsing right hon. R. L. Borden's Naval Policy, etc. and expressing sympathy with the unionists of Ireland in their heroic struggle. On behalf of right hon. Mr. Borden and myself I thank your lodge sincerely for these expressions of their approval and words of encouragement.

Yours fraternally

(Sgd.) T. S. Sproule

The T. S. Sproule who signed this letter is undoubtedly Hon. Thomas Simpson Sproule, for many years Grand Master of the Orange Order of British North America, now Speaker of the House of Commons in the Tory-Nationalist Government. This is the same Thomas Simpson Sproule who as Speaker has the enforcement of the closure rules, together with his friend Deputy Speaker Blondin, the Nationalist who said his ancestors had to bore holes through the Union Jack to breathe the air of liberty. The outlook for free speech in Canada's Parliament under the Borden closures administration is not good.

Kingston Whig—On the naval bill the Government should have compromised. It had many opportunities of doing so, and declined to act upon them. Had it embodied in its printed records a declaration that following the grant of \$35,000,000, it proposed to go on with a Canadian navy as a development of a policy which was unanimously adopted in 1909, there would have been no occasion for so much talk and surely no occasion for the gag. The exercise of force, in jamming through parliament a bill on which the parties and the people are so seriously divided is a tactical and political blunder which the Government must eventually sincerely regret.

Saskatchewan has twice protested against the Borden Government's Highways' Aid Bill as unconstitutional, since it infringes upon Provincial rights. Now comes Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec and an eminent lawyer, who says: "The manner in which the Federal Government intends to proceed is not constitutional. Once the Federal Government is allowed to infringe on the jurisdiction of our highways, nothing can prevent them from infringing on our other Provincial prerogatives such as public instruction and the control of them altogether."

The efforts of the Borden Government to discourage Canadians from the Canadian Naval Service, have not been as successful as the Nationalist members might desire. When the notification was sent to the Canadian cruiser "Rainbow" that any Canadian recruits might quit the service without buying their discharges, only two men wanted to take advantage of the offer. It is hard for even a Tory Government to break down Canadian patriotism.

Premier Borden in his Toronto speech stated that the proposal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for a Canadian navy was of a "separatist tendency." If Premier Borden would only submit his naval policy to the people of Canada he will find the separatist tendency in this country sufficiently strong to separate the Tories from the loaves and fishes for many years to come. After all it is that kind of separatist which the premier most fears.

Montreal Herald—The most blindly partisan of the Conservative papers in Ontario are going so far as to say that the Liberals in the Ontario Legislature owe an apology to Sir James Whitney and Hon. W.J. Hanna for having pressed against them the charge recently brought before the committee on privileges and elections. In view of the circumstances, this is about as "nervy" a proposal as we have heard in some time.

Premier Borden in his Toronto speech appeared to find cause for joy in the fact that five Quebec Nationalists voted against his naval bill on its third reading. Had the other sixteen remained true to their pre-election pledges and done the same thing the bill instead of passing by a majority of thirty three, would have been carried, on the casting vote of the speaker.

Mr. Armand Lavergne, Nationalist Leader, has called a meeting for Sunday, May 18th, at Montmagny and has challenged Mr. D. O. L'Esperance, M.P., to attend and explain why, elected as a Nationalist, he has become a servile follower of Mr. Borden. It will be interesting to watch what the Nationalist electors of Quebec do to the Nationalist representatives who have betrayed them.

Premier Borden no doubt thought he was playing a master stroke when he took Hon. L. P. Pelletier to Toronto with him but he would have given evidence of much better judgment had he left him at home. If the Tories of Toronto are sincere in their professions of loyalty it is difficult to see how they can have any use for a Nationalist of the Pelletier stripe.

Moncton Transcript—The Annuity Department at Ottawa, is spending an immense sum of money upon posters to boom the Annuity Department but it does not spend a cent in the most profitable form of advertising, that in the newspapers, that is poor business.

The bright sayings of other people's children never have quite that rare brilliancy which characterizes those of our own off-spring.

WOULD WIN QUEBEC TO BORDEN'S POLICY

In an attempt to foster Quebec feeling in favor of the Borden Government and especially to cause the Nationalist electors to think well of the Premier's naval policy, the Conservatives are about to embark upon a peculiar publicity campaign in Quebec. Having driven the naval bill through the Commons by gag rule and other unconstitutional methods, the Ministerialists hope to sway Quebec by a publicity scheme, which, if present plans are carried out, will be a campaign largely marked by false pretences.

It is reported that a central organization office is to be opened in Montreal, and under the direction of that office there will be issued a monthly Conservative publication, which will discuss political questions, the naval question among them, of course, from the Conservative Nationalist point of view. That will be one feature of the publicity campaign, but it is another feature which it more interesting and furnishes the evidence of false pretences.

Under the Ministerial plan a number of weekly newspapers are to be printed in Montreal which will show those who read them that the Borden naval bill does not run counter to Nationalist principles, that, as lion. L. P. Pelletier's newspaper organ has already stated, the bill is for "moral effect" only, and that, unlike the Liberal policy, the Premier's contribution scheme will not cause Quebec's sons to be disembowelled by foreign shells in fighting England's battles. While printed in Montreal, however, these weekly papers will not bear the Montreal date line. They are to be sent to different parts of Quebec and sent out through local postoffices as if purely local newspapers. In this way the Conservative-Nationalist organization expects to put in the hands of the people newspapers, which while being sure to contain nothing but accepted Conservative-Nationalist doctrine will make that appeal to their readers which "local" papers are always expected to make.

By such a campaign Premier Borden and his friends hope to continue to find favor with Quebec citizens who are of Nationalist sympathies, and thus to make the Conservative alliance with the Nationalists of further service to the Government in holding power.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATION

Jacob Gould Schurman, educator and diplomat, 59 years old today.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, famous as the creator of Sherlock Holmes, 54 years old today.

Charles H. Markham, president of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, 52 years old today.

Prince Leopold of Battenberg, third son of Prince Henry of Battenberg and grandson of the late Queen Victoria, 24 years old today.

Rev. Rabbi Meisela De Sola, of Montreal, one of the foremost Hebrew scholars of the world, 60 years old today.

Mayor Marx, of Detroit, plans to issue a proclamation telling the people that the street railway company has no rights on the streets, where franchises have expired, and that they shall pay only three-cent fares. He is asking that the \$250,000 motor bus appropriation be changed to read for motor busses or storage battery cars.

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