

THE TARIFF.

(CONTINUED FROM EIGHTH PAGE)

He has been invited more than once to revise the tariff, invited by his friends, invited by foes, but up to this year my hon. friend has resisted all such invitations. But today there are signs of the rising of the economic disturbance, and it would be well to trim our sails and set the ship so as to have her ready to weather the storm. This is what is done by the changes this year. They are reform, and nothing but reform. (Cheers.) My hon. friend, the Finance Minister, has stated that they do not go as far as he would like, and he has stated the course to be followed with reference to future changes.

Mr. Borden's Proposal.

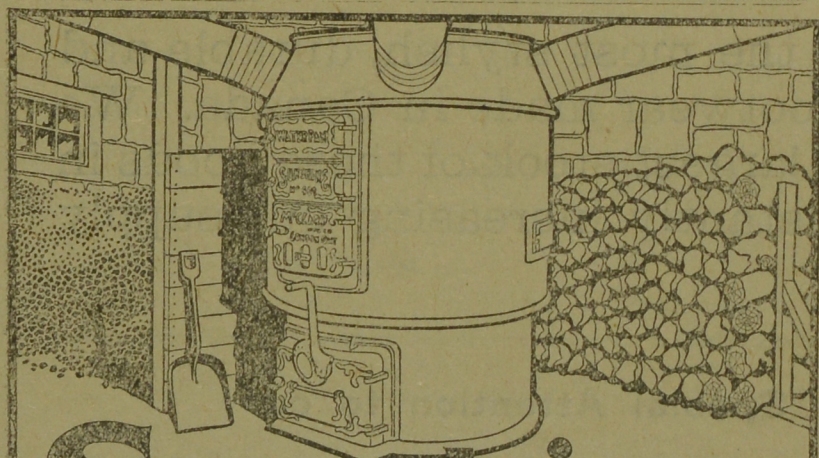
My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition also proposes changes of the tariff, but very different changes. He does not propose to reform; he proposes to revolutionize; he practically says to the people of Canada, "Let us undo what we have done in the last seven years; let us tear up our tariff." (Hear, hear.) Sir, it is always an easy task to destroy. The difficulty is to build up again. What is proposed by my hon. friend? He proposes to destroy the tariff, but what will be substituted for it? My hon. friend wants what he calls adequate protection. But what is adequate protection? He says it is—no, he declines to tell us. (Laughter.) Again I make a slip, but I am sure I can correct it without a murmur from the other side of the House. (Cheers and laughter.) He has not declined to tell us what adequate protection means; he has not declined because he cannot do it. He cannot any more tell us what is an adequate protection and what is not than he can tell us the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. The two things are not definable. But my hon. friend has chosen to keep us in the dark as to his meaning. But, though my hon. friend has not told us what he means by adequate protection, at all events we have it from his own lips, from the lips of some of his followers and from some of his organs, what is at the bottom of his thought, and what he means by adequate protection. It means in his own mind high protection, the very highest protection—American protection. I am quite warranted in what I say, that what my hon. friend means by adequate protection, if he means anything, is the American standard of protection.

Therefore, if I am right in my conclusion, and I think I am, we have to choose between the Canadian tariff and the American tariff. If that be the issue, sir, we on this side of the House are ready to accept it and we stand by the Canadian tariff." (Cheers.)

The Inevitable Collapse.

After referring to the great abuses which have sprung up under the American tariff, including the trusts and the war between the capital and labor, Sir Wilfrid pointed out that the time came—and it was not very long—when, to use an American expression, the bottom was knocked out of this traffic, and today the United States is in a most deplorable condition. The steel trust, for example, which threatened at one time to capture the whole iron and steel industry of the world, is no longer dangerous as a competitor, but is struggling for its existence, and has had to discharge thousands of its

operators. The railways, which at one time had not sufficient rolling stock to carry their traffic, are discharging their operators by the thousands. Within the last few months the Pennsylvania Railway Company—the largest in the States—has discharged no less than 11,000 of its operators, and the New York Herald of fifteen days ago published a statement, which has not been contradicted, that the total number of men discharged by the railway companies since last April is no less than 75,000. We have escaped all this. Our railways are doing good business, and so are our manufacturers. "Is this, then, the moment when we should abandon our tariff and adopt the American tariff?" asked Sir Wilfrid, amid cries of "no, no."



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The Tariff Inquiry.

Now, sir, we do not propose of the government upon this occasion, a regular revision of the tariff. That may come, or it may not come, it will depend upon circumstances. At all events, there is one thing which I think we ought to do. We are not above being instructed. We are not above receiving outside information. (Hear, hear.) My hon. friend rather jeered this afternoon because we proposed to make an inquiry into the industrial condition of the country. If there is one thing for which the country will be grateful to the minister of finance it will be this, that he has announced that at the proper moment he will have an inquiry made into all the conditions which at present regulate Canadian manufactures and Canadian productions. I have no doubt that we will receive valuable information; we will receive instruction. We will not be above receiving information and acting upon the information received, as the occasion may demand and as opportunity arises. (Cheers.) Sir, we have now been eight years in power. That is not a very long time in the lifetime of a nation, though it may be perhaps a long time in the life of a party. But after having been eight years in office, I think I can say in the presence of friends and adversaries that we have not been imitators; we have been ourselves. (Cheers.) We have not walked merely in beaten paths; we have hewed out our own way. (Cheers.) We have altered our policy according to the difficulties that arose, and we have endeavored to solve the problems as they presented themselves to us, not by the application of antiquated formulas that had been in vogue in older communities, but we have framed a policy that would be applicable to our own conditions and our own circumstances. (Hear, hear.) In the first budget speech which was presented to this House by the minister of finance we introduced a preferential tariff. We did not imitate any other nation; we originated it. (Cheers.) We adopted a policy which we thought suited to our condition, both as a colony and as a young nation, believing it to be in accord with sound economic conditions. We adopted a policy which we thought would advance Canadian trade with Great Britain, our mother country, and which at the same time would afford considerable relief to the Canadian consumer. A year ago we imposed the German surtax. (Cheers.) In doing so we did not borrow legislation from other countries; we devised a remedy which we had reason to believe would compel a powerful nation to give us fair treatment, which that nation denied us, or, at all events, would force him

to respect us. This year again in order to meet a modern evil which has resulted from new methods in highly-protected countries we have invented a policy which we have every reason to believe will prove entirely effectual. (Renewed cheers.) As it was in the past so it shall be in the future, we shall face any difficulties, we shall face any problems that arise, and we shall endeavor to settle them by ways and means altogether Canadian in their conception, altogether Canadian in their character."

Cheer after cheer rang through the chamber as Sir Wilfrid Laurier resumed his seat after a speech which will long be remembered by those who heard it.



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Dalhousie Wharf," will be received at this office until Friday, July 8, 1904, inclusively, for the construction of a deep water wharf at Dalhousie, Restigouche County, N. B., according to a plan and specification to be seen at the office of E. T. P. Shewen, Esq., Resident Engineer, St. John, N. B., Geoffrey Stead, Esq., Resident Engineer, Chatham, N. P., on application to the Postmaster of Dalhousie, N. B., and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers. An accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, for four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00), must accompany each tender. The cheque will be forfeited if the party tendering declines the contract or fails to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

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FRED. GELINAS,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, June 9, 1904.

Newspapers interesting this advertisement without authority from the Department, will not be paid for it.

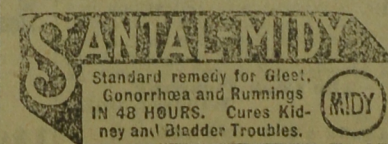
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