

Hon. Mr. Baxter's Scathing Criticism of the Government

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commission such as this, inquiring into the conditions as we have them today in the country. I believe we would get the very best information possible regarding our industries. I do not say that this commission should be independent of Parliament. It should be appointed under Parliament, and only for the purpose of making recommendations to Parliament. Those recommendations would be voted upon, and Parliament would be put to assume the responsibility of those recommendations, if they were put into effect. The second clause in this platform, which I consider of great importance, reads:

That every claim for tariff protection by any industry should be heard publicly before the proposed commission.

I believe that if this commission were in operation we would get a very great amount of information which would be valuable to the people of Canada. We would find out a lot of things which would be great surprises to us. We have been told in the past that a great many of our manufacturers have been making immense sums of money. We have been told that the Dominion Textile people made a profit of 310 per cent. in one year. I do not know whether that is true or not. It has been stated on public platforms, and never denied, as far as I have heard, that it would be the duty of this commission to inquire and find out whether that firm had been making such undue profits in one year or not.

With regard to the woolen industry I have been told—in fact present time bears out the statement—that for a period of ten years the average profits of the woolen industry of Canada have been in the neighbourhood of 5 or 6 per cent. I do not know whether that is true or not, but it would be the duty of the commission to find out, and once they had all the cards on the table with regard to any particular industry, the commission would be in a position to say whether that industry required any assistance or not in the way of a tariff. However, with regard to any of our industries which are native to Canada, it is upon an examination of their statements before the commission that is given to the commission that they require protection. I would be in favour of giving them protection. We find that other countries are adopting this system. We found out just the other day that the United States made a move in this direction. While I do not believe in following the lead of United States in every particular, yet it is an indication that the people of other countries are thinking along these lines, and I think if the Government would adopt such a system as a tariff commission, which is one of the planks of our platform, they would receive a good bit of support from this side of the House. The tariff is more or less of a mystery to me, I am free to confess. I suppose I have a fair amount of knowledge upon it, yet I believe the Government is justified in dealing carefully with it. I do not think they would be justified in making any undue reduction, owing to the present unsettled state of this country. I think the action of the Government, while it is not all we desire, is at

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least, commendable and goes in the right direction.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Would the hon. member consider the cotton industry as a native industry?

Mr. ELLIOTT: I would not think the cotton industry was a native industry.

Mr. J. F. WHITE (London): I think a repetition of congratulations to the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) is hardly necessary and somewhat tiresome. I can only say that I admire the Finance Minister for the pluck he has shown in facing a very difficult proposition of the vigour, both of body and mind, which he now enjoys. I could not help thinking, as I heard his budget speech, that another milestone had been passed in the matter of election pledges, promises and arguments, and I remember that in the days gone by we have heard of commercial union; we have heard of free trade as they have it in England; we have heard of tariff for revenue only, of reciprocity, and now we have the first outcome of the Liberal tariff platform of 1919 with its solemn pledges and its chart and compass attachment. As to what the final outcome will be, I suppose it is a case of, no man knows. If we consider the proposed tariff changes by themselves, there is some slight reduction; but if we consider them in connection with the sales tax, the reduction is so slight as to be almost invisible. Some hon. gentlemen are quite satisfied with a very short stop. It is rather significant that the budget does not contain any new sources of revenue. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has not been able to tap any fresh source; he has simply added to those which we have had before, and it seems to me that this is quite a compliment to the previous Minister of Finance (Sir Henry Drayton) and the late government. In the case of these slight tariff reductions, I would point out that Canada is the only nation that I know of which is reducing tariffs. In the last two or three years, the customs tariffs in other countries have been increased, and it might be said that the world, excepting Canada, is opposed to a reduction of tariffs. Since coming to this House, I have been very much interested in the speeches of the party to my left, and the Ontario members, who number about one-third of that party, have been strangely silent upon many subjects (Mr. Hoye), to the right for Springfield (Mr. Hoye), to the golden West, about the blues that I have ever heard. We have just listened to the hon. member for South Waterloo (Mr. Elliott), who, I believe, advocated before the election the tariff commission. He says that he is in favour of a tariff for revenue, which is just what I am in favour of. I am sure that a great many members of that party would express whether we would not have just about as cosmopolitan a membership in that party as there is in the Liberal party. It was somewhat to my surprise that he cleared up any duplication or any arrangement whereby prices were hoisted to too high a level.

We had before the special Railway Committee a day or two ago the Hon. George Langley who is

giving evidence before that committee, said that the western country from which he came, had lost confidence in a certain commission. We have had the Railway Commission looking after railway matters for some years; and if a certain section of the country loses entire confidence in the Railway Commission, why cannot other sections of the country lose confidence in a tariff commission? The tariff is too intimately connected with our raising of revenue to be entrusted to a commission.

We have heard a great deal about the troubles of hon. gentlemen to the left, and it seems to me that some of those are troubles, which no legislation can remedy. They had bad weather conditions during the last two years, which I would point out that the Act of Parliament can command the velocity or the direction of the wind, or the fall of rain or the time at which it shall come. It seems to me that while climatic conditions may not be ideal, the greatest trouble they have and the greatest drawback to their success is the exorbitant freight rates which they are compelled to pay. We are told that the special Railway Committee will have something of interest and of value to bring before this House when they are ready to report. Probably another reason for some of their troubles is, that dry areas in the northern part of Alberta and Saskatchewan were opened up for farming when they might better have been left as grazing lands and would probably have produced more than they have under cultivation. Although members of that party are opposed to protection in all its forms, or at least in some of them, we have heard hon. members have explained that they are not asking for any special protection or special privilege; but they are willing to vote large sums for the promotion of the interest of agriculture, and I do not object to that. They are quite willing to ask for a wheat board, and in the present progress that the wheat board is making, I have my doubts whether it will be of any value to them. But if that is the regulation they want, I am quite free to say that I am willing to support that measure.

I have looked up the record of imports of farm produce, and I find that, in the year ended March 31, 1921, nineteen items were imported into this country the product of farms to the value of \$71,500,000. We exported 3,741,000 pounds of butter, of which 2,207,000 pounds were received from the United States. We exported 9,739,000 pounds, nearly 6,000,000 of which went to the United States. I am giving the figures in round numbers. The United States duty is now 8 cents per pound. Under the regulations now before the Senate, I believe it is proposed to raise it to 8 cents. The Canadian duty is 4 cents per pound.

Of eggs in the shell, we imported 5,342,000 dozen, of which 5,201,000 dozen came from the United States. That does not take into consideration eggs in the frozen state. We exported 6,579,000 dozen, of which only 191,000 dozen went to the United States. Eggs were admitted to the United States free. The proposed tariff is 8 cents per dozen. The Canadian duty is 3 cents per dozen.

We have heard a great deal about efforts being made to secure wider markets; and while I would not minimize those efforts, I would say that it behooves us to examine the conditions, to find out the reasons why these things exist and to take steps to secure our own

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LIKENED TO GEHENNA.

LONDON, June 8.—Mr. Lloyd George, likened Gehenna to Gehenna in an address he made in a Welsh church on Sunday. After the service of hearing a sermon, the Premier, who at first was reluctant to speak, said he liked spending his holidays listening to Welsh sermons.

An old man at Cricoeth, he said, greeted him on his return from Genoa, which the old man called Gehenna, the partition line was but a slight partition intervening between them. It seems at times, he said, that he could smell the very fumes arising therefrom.

His opinion was that it was only the religion of Christ that was saving the world from another catastrophe.

In Oklahoma, a couple were married in bathing, and a few years ago may wear her wedding dress to dances.