

Hotel Directory

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21 WALLACE AVE., TORONTO,
Dec. 22nd, 1913.

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WHY NOT PRUNE ESTIMATES INSTEAD OF INCREASING DUTY?

(Continued From Page Two.)

shrinkage in trade, wipe out current deficits, meet the interest account on the war loans—in short, do everything protection is supposed to do in times of peace and enough more to keep the balance even. But his main argument is that he needs the money. It is worth remembering, however, that this year's war loan of \$100,000,000 from the British government is merely a war credit until it is spent and if the war ends suddenly we may not have to post it to the debit side of the ledger. England lends us this money for war purposes only and if there is no war we get no money. The Finance Minister states the worst we can expect, so that anything less will look like a blessing.

The exceptions are well contrived to hold the foe in play. Among other things to which the tariff increases do not apply are wheat, flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, anthracite coal—that heads off such as chafe at the increased cost of living, the workingman please pay attention. Reapers, mowers, binders, harvesters, binder twine, are immune, but ploughs, which are more closely allied to the Conservative party and are indeed represented in Parliament, get seven and a half per cent more protection, presumably against the Monroe Doctrine. Meanwhile, the farmer is supposed to reflect what kind of a father he has in the government at Ottawa. Newsprint paper, newspaper presses and type setting and casting machines are not touched—the moulders of public opinion will please remember this in their editorials. They are perfectly safe as long as the paper manufacturers on both sides of the international line don't get together and make the war an excuse for boosting prices—a scheme which is said to be under way already.

Imported whiskey is the means to pull off a good day's work for the home producer. The foreign stuff is boosted seven and a half per cent, but as there is no corresponding excise duty on the native product the Canadian distiller naturally gets the benefit of the increased tariff. Thus do they kill the cat by choking it with cream.

The exemption list embraces seventy-seven articles of the tariff and includes the usual number of humorous contrasts and inconsistencies. Tea escapes, but coffee gets the limit—the idea being, no doubt, to break up the coffee habit and discourage the use of coffee beans as a breath-disguiser. Why should a Canadian patriot be ashamed of drinking Canadian whiskey and helping to the best of his ability the revenue and the cause of freedom for which the Allies are now battling? It is passing strange, however, that cocoa should be treated with the same consideration as tea, because cocoa is notoriously the beverage of English Radicals and the chief nourishment of the Nonconformist conscience.

Wooden legs stand where they were, but glass eyes, which come from Germany, are deservedly penalized to the full extent. False teeth may come in one at a time, but if they attempt to mobilize in sets with a view to biting the British North America Act in the leg, they must first pierce our tariff barrier. Limes, which are used in gin rickys, are exempt, but oranges and bananas, which are used by children and sick people, are assessed. Arrowroot is not blessed, for without it many occupants of the Red Chamber would never live to see the Senate reformed by abolishing the Liberal majority.

Homing and messenger pigeons are made welcome, no doubt at the instance of the Minister of Militia, who plans to organize them as part of his Intelligence Department. Bees will not be stopped by the custom officers,

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Where located:—"I, Chance It Fraction located between the 'Lilly Bertha' and 'Aldebaran' Mineral Claims near head of Alice Arm, Observatory Inlet, and 'Black Bear' Mineral Claim, located one mile more or less, from the northwest point of the head of Alice Arm, a branch of Observatory Inlet.

TAKE NOTICE that I, Pedro Salinas, Free Miner's Certificate No. 80313B, intend, sixty days from the date hereof to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 85, must be commenced before the issue of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 21st day of September, A.D. 1914.

PEDRO SALINAS.

How will the opposition answer this now tariff of Tom White's? Well, A. K. Maclean will probably point out that it's seven and half per cent more National Policy, that while it took the Liberals fifteen years to cut it down two and a half per cent, it took the Conservatives only four years to raise it seven and a half per cent, a clear gain of five per cent. Free trade is like the man who tried to climb out of the well—falls back two feet for every one he goes up. From this the opposition financial critic will probably draw the conclusion that the Borden government finds it easier to boost the tariff than to let well enough alone. He may even contend that protection is the object, and war is the goal. At any rate, he will inquire if they are going to keep this tariff on after the war and its consequences are over. He may even argue that the tariff will do less and more than the Finance Minister intimates—that is to say, will produce less revenue than he expects and afford more protection than he discloses.

Another point will be the British preferential. Why this discrimination against the Mother Country, from whom we borrow our money? Are we trying to get even with the interest account? The raise in postage? Is it wise? In 1896, with the old three-cent rate, there was a deficit of \$800,000 a year in the Postoffice Department. Along came Sir William Mulock, the Canadian inventor of two-cent stamps and turned that \$800,000 deficit into a million dollar surplus. Does it pay better to write more letters for more money? Will the rule work both ways? I don't think the debate will go very far before somebody criticises the stamp taxes. The government will be accused of having the country with its tongue hanging out.

Another pertinent question will be: Why do you raise the tariff instead of pruning your estimates? It's a startling question. No government has ever pruned its estimates with a general election in the offing, but the question will be asked just the same. This looks like a time for economy and retrenchment. Very well, why don't you do it? Why? I imagine that Why will be fought out in detail. The estimates will be raked fore and aft, day and night shifts being put on the job.

You never miss the water until the courts get hold of the stock and squeeze it out.

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