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EX-PREMIER INTERVIEWED.
Speaks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Blunder

In Telling the People of England That Canada Does Not Desire Reciprocity in Preferential Tariff Arrangements: Missed a Great Opportunity.

Shortly after his arrival from England Sir Charles Tupper had an interview with a newspaper correspondent in the course of which he said:

"I may say that while in England I avoided taking any part in the jubilee festivities, although I was invited everywhere, because I found that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was taking an attitude of which I strongly disapproved, in speaking against preferential trade with the Empire. As I did not wish in any way to interfere with the reception accorded to him, and as it would be impossible for me to be present on public occasions without appearing to concur in the stand he was taking or adopting the very disagreeable position of disagreeing with what the representative of Canada was saying, I declined to accept any invitations where an opportunity might have arisen of my being called upon to say anything. I was greatly surprised to find out that at the reception given to the Colonial Premiers at Liverpool by the Duke of Devonshire, as chairman of the British Empire League, when the proposal for preferential trade within the Empire was made by the Duke of Devonshire it was met by a statement by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he proposed to carry out the principle of free trade, and that all he had to say in reference to preferential trade within the Empire was to report what its strongest opponents had urged against it. In my opinion a great opportunity was thrown away. Nobody can read the speech of the Duke of Devonshire which brought down upon him the strictures of the Cobden party throughout England as abandoning the principle of free trade, without feeling that Canada sustained as she would have been by the autonomous colonies except New South Wales could have secured preferential trade within the Empire. How Sir Wilfrid Laurier recoiled his declaration when seeking power that he was as strongly in favor of preferential trade as Sir Charles Tupper and that he would endeavor to obtain it by negotiating with Lord Salisbury, and his determined attitude against it in England, I cannot understand. A great opportunity has thus been lost of once securing preferential trade within the Empire, which would give the products of Canada a position in the markets of Great Britain that would have resulted in rapidly bringing people and capital into Canada, and enhancing the wealth of all classes and the progress of the country.

MISSING OPPORTUNITY.

"No person rejoices more heartily than I do at the cordial reception given to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in England, and the interest that has in consequence been naturally excited in Canada. No person can question the manner in which Sir Wilfrid sustained on the other side his reputation as an orator, but I have yet to learn of any instance in which he took advantage of the great opportunities afforded him to promote the interests of Canada. He proclaimed at the outset the desire of Canada to give a preference to Great Britain, and naturally every person in the United Kingdom was only too glad to learn that the duties were to be reduced in Canada upon British goods coming into Canada. But no person who has followed the proceedings in the Canadian Parliament, or who understands the question at all, can fail to perceive that the Government stands convicted either of gross ignorance of the question with which it was dealing, or, what is worse, of palpable dishonesty. When the proposal was submitted to the Canadian Parliament which it was claimed was intended to give a preference to England, it was at once declared by the Opposition to be entirely delusive. The Government took the ground that the treaties with Belgium and Germany would not prevent the clause from going into operation, and giving an advantage in our markets to British products. The Opposition declared that the terms of the resolution submitted to Parliament with that avowed object would have the effect of discriminating against England instead of favoring it, as several other countries would also be placed in the position to claim the reduction granted under the proposed law, while England would be debarred by the treaties in question from having that advantage. The Opposition not only maintained the binding character of the treaties, but told the Government that it could not obtain the assent of the Governor-General to the bill unless the clause extended the reduction to Belgium and Germany and all other countries under the favored nations clause. The result was that the Government consented to change the position by bringing down such a clause. The statement that it had already done what it could not do, give preferential treatment to England, has in like manner been refuted by the fact that not only has it been obliged to extend by order-in-Council the privilege to Belgium and Germany, but it has announced that it would refund the duties exacted from these countries over the amount at which British products were admitted.

THE DENOUNCED TREATIES.

"The claim that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made that he secured the denunciation of the Belgium and German treaties is shown to be founded unless in fact by the State paper laid on the table of the House of Commons by Mr. Chamberlain. It is well known that the United Empire Trade League and the friends of preferential trade throughout the Empire had by their very able and successful negotiations prepared the public mind for the denunciation of the treaties. The great conference which took place at Ottawa at which South Africa, Australia, and the other colonies were represented, passed a resolution in favor of the proposals. The Agents Gen-

eral of the colonies in London had united with myself in asking for it. The position taken by Mr. Chamberlain in endorsing the resolution in favor of preferential trade passed by the Toronto Board of Trade, and which Mr. Osler, Lord Strathcona, and others so ably advocated at the third congress of the Boards of Trade, was a signal advance in favor of the movement. The State paper to which I have referred, giving an account of the interviews between Mr. Chamberlain and the Premiers, shows that he only undertook to submit the denunciation to the favorable consideration of the Government, providing that all the Premiers united in asking for it. That was followed by a resolution passed unanimously by the Premiers, asking for the denunciation of the treaties, and pledging themselves to submit to their Governments measures for giving a preference to British trade in their various countries. Upon that the Government decided to denounce the treaties. It was therefore not only in bad taste, but an act of great ingratitude, and utterly at variance with the facts, for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to declare that the denunciation of the treaties had been secured by the action of Canada. The results have been shown conclusively that in this question the Government has been wrong throughout, that the positions taken by it were found to be untenable, and that the views and policy of the Opposition have received the endorsement of the Imperial authorities. A still greater humiliation too, awaits the Government in connection with this clause. Any one who reads the state paper and Mr. Chamberlain's address will find that no preference can be given to the goods of the United Kingdom by Canada, except by expunging the clause from statutes and substituting another providing for giving a preference to Great Britain nominally, as, although after the Belgium and German treaties have been disposed of at the end of a year, the most favored nation clause in all of Great Britain's commercial treaties to which the colonies are a part, provide that any tariff concession given to any third power must be given to all countries having a favored nation arrangement with England. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will therefore be compelled either to abandon the position he has taken of wishing to give a preference to the products of Great Britain in Canada or he must repeal the present clause in the Act and substitute for it one specifically for giving to England alone this advantage. Notwithstanding the declaration made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Louis Davies, and other members of the government, that no country could take advantage of the preference except Great Britain, a most cursory examination of the tariff of Holland and even of Belgium will show that even after the treaties have been denounced those countries, as well as Japan, China and other countries, will be in a position to demand admission at the reduced rate. The alleged preference for British goods is thus shown to be a complete delusion. I hope that after all the declarations Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made that he wishes to give England a preference, he will have no hesitation in taking the only means possible by repealing the clause in question. If there is any hesitation the government will expose itself to ridicule and show how hollow and insincere is their alleged desire to give England a preference. An other curious fact remains to be noted. In the Canadian Parliament and in England Sir Wilfrid declared that Canada was conferring a boon on England out of gratitude for what England had done for us. On his return to Canada, the Premier adopted another line in direct contradiction by declaring that in accepting the proposal for the denunciation of the treaties England had made a great sacrifice.

CANADA A NATION.

"I was much amused to find that Sir Wilfrid Laurier since his return to Canada has made the discovery that Canada is a nation. He seems to have forgotten that at the Imperial Institute banquet, at a time when the treaties had not been denounced, and there was no immediate prospect of the denunciation, he declared that Canada was now a nation because she was free. The idea that freedom alone makes a nation is simply grotesque when it is remembered that Prince Edward Island, for instance, might be placed in the enjoyment of complete freedom, and yet no one would pretend that would make it a nation. A much better definition was given by the late Ambassador of the United States, when he gave utterance to the fact that the Confederation of British North America and the construction of a great inter-oceanic line of railway had brought the United States face to face with a nation. At first sight it could not but be a matter of surprise that the accomplishment of these great achievements should never have received the slightest attention from Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his speeches in England. The reason is not far to seek, as neither Sir Wilfrid Laurier nor the Rouge party had any lot or part in the making of Canada a nation, but the great work of Confederation and the spanning of the continent was accomplished not only without their assistance, but despite their most determined opposition. Elquent as his speeches certainly were, the reader will search in vain for one kind or generous allusion to Sir John Macdonald, or to the great French Canadian Sir George Etienne Cartier, to whom Canada owes such a great debt of gratitude. I repeat, that, gratified as we all must be at Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reception in England, we cannot but deplore the fact that the great opportunity presented was completely thrown away. Everybody interested in the unity and development of the Empire will rejoice that the denunciation of the treaties has removed the difficulty in the way of establishing preferential trade relations within the Empire. It will now be the duty of all friends of preferential trade within the Empire to maintain in and out of Parliament a steady agitation in favor of not only providing a real preference in favor of Great Britain, but also of obtaining from the Mother Country the great advantage of placing our products in a better position in the markets of the United Kingdom."

STRAYED SHEEP.—Strayed to the premises of John Harper, on Sunday morning, a sheep, owner may have same by proving property and paying for this advertisement.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS

A SNUG SUM.—The gross receipts of Grace Church bazaar will amount to \$314.

THE WEATHER.—Moderate westerly winds, fair and showery or higher temperature.

FISHERY.—At Hartford, Conn., a few nights ago, Chas. Goff, of California and George Byers, of Charlottetown, fought a twelve round draw.

CURLING.—A meeting of all interested in curling will be held in the Y. M. C. A. Parlor on Monday, 27th inst., at 4.30 p. m. to take into consideration arrangements for the coming season.

A RARE TREAT.—A rare event is advertised in this issue. It is an illustrated lecture upon the Arctic Regions by a Commander of Her Majesty's Navy who took part in the historical search for Sir John Franklin. Read the adv.

WILLIAMS INDICTED.—The Boston correspondent of the St. John Sun writes: Alfred C. Williams, formerly of Summerside, who was arrested some time ago at Lynfield on a charge of murdering an Italian for his money, and afterwards burning the victim's house, has been indicted by the grand jury of Sussex county. The trial will occur in a few weeks.

KING'S COUNTY EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition to be held Georgetown on Wednesday next, promises to be most successful. The entry list is large, and the various exhibits will be well worth seeing. The agricultural meeting and the horse races in connection with the exhibition will be pleasing features. The ladies of the Roman Catholic congregation at Georgetown, will do all in their power to make this portion of the gathering a success. All who patronize them may rely upon being well treated.

EXHIBITION NOTE.—Messrs. Hazard & Moore have placed in their show window their magnificent exhibit of Mercantile Blank Books. This will enable our merchants who were unable to attend the Provincial Exhibition to see and inspect the excellent workmanship of this enterprising firm. A business man from New York, attending the exhibition, said he had never seen anything in the line better gotten up in America. The windows of Sunnyside Bookstore are indeed worth having a peep at, being decorated with Mr. Hazard's prize-winning flowers and plants.

MARRIED AT NEW GLASGOW.—At 4.30 o'clock yesterday, 22nd inst., the marriage of Clara, second daughter of the late Dr. D. G. McKay, of Summerside, P. E. I., and Joseph Dix Fraser, son of Mr. Graham Fraser, manager of the Nova Scotia Steel Co., took place. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's mother, Rev. James Carruthers officiating. Miss Ida, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, while the groom was supported by Mr. Henry Graham. The happy couple left by the 6.30 p. m. train for a tour through Annapolis Valley and United States.—New Glasgow Chronicle.

A GREAT MEETING.—The Summerside Agriculturist says the race meeting on the Charlottetown Driving Park during the Exhibition was one of the best ever held in Canada, with magnificent trotting and splendidly contested races. It says: Never did we see, in such large fields of starters, so little breaking, and everything carried on so smoothly. This meeting put several of them low marks and broke a number of records. Twenty heats were trotted in better than 2.30, and 2.40 was the slowest heat of the meeting. Montrose, for instance, trotted thirteen heats, four of which he won. The Maritime record was broken by Montrose, Warren Guy and Minota. It was a great meeting, the greatest in its results, many horsemen claim, in the trotting history of the Maritime Provinces.

PERSONAL.

Miss Hettie Farlow, left here on last Wednesday for Boston.

Mr. R. W. Ambrose, the well-known oil man, is here on a visit.

Mrs. Nelson Clarke, of Cape Traverse, is spending a few days in Charlottetown. She is the guest of H. E. J. Lewis, Esq.

Rev. C. W. Corey, pastor of the Charlottetown Baptist Church, and Rev. J. A. Gordon, of Main St. Baptist Church, St. John, are exchanging pulpits for tomorrow.

Archbishop O'Brien, who will deliver his paper on Cabot in Brooklyn, in October, will be a guest there of R. V. Father Duff, of St. Agnes.—Halifax Herald.

Mr. F. A. Beer and wife returned to their homes in Goodlands, Kansas, this morning after a short stay with their relatives in this city. Their many friends in town and country were pleased to meet them.

Mr. W. J. O'Donnell, who, for a time, studied law in Mr. A. McLean's office, left this morning to take a course in the Boston law school. Mr. O'Donnell is a clever student and a hard worker. We wish him every success in his studies.

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Souvenir OF P. E. Island

A copy of "Prince Edward Island Illustrated," is about the best thing for the purpose of giving strangers an idea of his beautiful Province. It consists of 100 pp. printed on the best paper. The engravings are numerous and first-class. The price is 25c a copy. They are for sale at all the bookstores in Charlottetown, at Summerside and Souris and on the train. They may be obtained at this office, securely wrapped, ready to mail to friends abroad. Write or call.

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Passengers leaving Charlottetown Tuesdays and Saturday mornings, via Pictou make close connection at Halifax with steamers "Olette" and "Halifax" for Boston direct Wednesdays at 7 a. m and Saturdays 11 p. m.

Tickets for sale at stations P. E. I. Railway, Ch'town Nav Co, and Clark ticket office.

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Thursday, Sept. 23rd.
Then alternate Tuesdays as follows:—
Oct. 5th and 19th.
Nov. 2nd, 16th and 30th.
Dec. 14th and 28th.
Jan. 11th and 25th.
Feb. 8th and 22nd.

Particulars of each Entertainment will be given in due course in our local columns sept 13—

Notice To Contractors

TENDERS for re-roofing and building additions, to St. Patrick's Church FORT AUGUSTUS, will be received until noon on FRIDAY the 24th inst.

Plans may be seen from Saturday the 18th inst. at the office of W. C. Harris Jr Architect at Charlottetown.

Tenders to be addressed to the undersigned.

REV. ALLAN McDONALD,
Fort Augustus.

NOTICE

A special meeting of the share holders of the Cornwall Creamery Co., will be held at Cornwall, on Monday, Sept. 27th to take into consideration the advisability of putting in a plant for the manufacture of butter.

Patrons and all others interested are requested to be at hand.

W. N. CROSBY,
Secretary.