

February	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28					

THE SITUATION.

ABLY REVIEWED BY SENATOR FERGUSON.

Overwhelming Arrangement of the Government.

(Continued from Hansard.)

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I think it was withdrawn. But that does not effect Mr. Chamberlain's position.

Hon. Mr. Mills—The present tariff is a step in the direction.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—We shall see about that. Mr. Chamberlain said he saw the germ of a practical solution of the question in that resolution of the Toronto Board of Trade and that being so, I cannot see for the life of me how those gentlemen can attempt to deny that Mr. Chamberlain had committed himself to this question as a practical issue. Now, I have quoted somewhat at length and discussed these two speeches of Mr. Chamberlain's. Then we have a speech by the Duke on Devonshire which was made at the landing of the colonial premiers in England—an address of welcome. He said:

"Very few disciples of free trade fifty years ago would have believed for a moment that at this time France and Germany would be carrying on an enormous trade under strictly prohibitive conditions and not only that they would not have opened the markets to us, but they would be competing over us for the possession of as large a portion as possible of the surface of the earth, not for the purpose of opening it up to the universal benefits of free trade, but for the purpose of excluding from those portions English trade. The world has not become the commercial paradise which was predicted in the early days of free trade opinion, when it was hoped that free trade would bind all the nations of the earth so closely together that it would be a matter of comparatively little importance by whom they were ruled, or under what influence they were governed. We have since learned by painful experience that no old nor new markets are being thrown open to us by the influence of free trade alone, and that if we want to provide for increasing commerce, which is necessary for the support of our increasing population, we must find those markets for ourselves, and must use every opportunity either of expanding or consolidating our colonial possessions."

These views are found to be in harmony with the opinions expressed by Mr. Chamberlain on those two notable occasions before the Canada Club and before the Associated Chamber of Commerce. But if any doubt were held at all as to what the views of Mr. Chamberlain were I think I can quote an authority that is entitled to the respect of the hon. leader of the House and the hon. Secretary of State as showing what the position of Mr. Chamberlain was in regard to this question. I am quoting from a speech made in London, Ont., in 1896, a little before the last general elections by the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of Canada, and this is what he says:

"We would have for our goods a preference which would not be given to the goods of another nation. That practical statesman Mr. Chamberlain has come to the conclusion that the time has come when it is possible within the bounds of the empire for another step to be taken which will give to the colonies in England a preference for their products over the products of other nations."

Here the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier speaking in London in 1896 complimented Mr. Chamberlain in coming to this conclusion, and said that the time had come when such a step would be taken.

What would be the possibilities of such a step, if it was taken. We sell our goods in England; we sell our wheat, our butter, our cheese, all our natural products. He knew exactly the articles on which preference would come:

"But there we have to compete with similar products from the United States, from Russia and from other nations. Just see what a great advantage it would be to Canada if the wheat and cheese and butter which we send to England be met with a preference over similar products of their nations. The possibilities are immense. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain the new and progressive Secretary of the Colonies has declared that the time has come when it is possible to discuss that question. But, sir, if England is going to give us that preference, England would expect something in return. What is it she would expect? England would expect that we could come as closely to her own system of free trade as it is possible for us to come. England does not expect that we would take her own system of free trade such as she has it; but I lay it before you that the thing the British people would expect in return is, that, instead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff pure and simple. These are the conditions upon which we can have that boon."

Hon. gentlemen say they have fulfilled these conditions. They tell us sometimes, but rather in bated breath, that they have given us a revenue tariff. Well, if they have, according to Sir Wilfrid, they put themselves in a position to get that boon of preferential trade, and why do they not get it? I will discuss that question later.

on. The Right Hon. gentleman apparently desirous of putting himself further on record in regard to this matter, spoke in Montreal as follows:—

"In regard to this question of preferential trade I desire to say that Sir Charles Tupper is no more in favour of the idea than I am myself. My hope is—nay my conviction is that on the 23rd of June the liberal party will be at the head of the polls, and that it will be the liberal party, with its policy of a revenue tariff that will send commissioners to London to arrange for a basis of preferential trade."

Well, if I know what occurred at all, I know there was a certain commissioner went to London, the premier himself went there, but it would be the severest irony to say he went there to make a treaty for preferential trade with Canada. It would be entirely contrary to the truth, as I will show before I resume my seat. When Sir Charles Tupper made a remarkable speech in Montreal during the winter of 1896, upon this question of preferential trade, the Toronto Globe, the organ of the gentlemen of opposite sex, asked "why should Sir Charles Tupper waste his time and breath in advocating preferential trade, when it is a policy that every one in this country will hold up his hands in support of. The battle must be fought in England." Here was the declaration of the organ of the party that there were no two opinions in Canada on this question of preferential trade. Now, I will show the other side of the picture. The Premier went to London last year to attend the great Jubilee celebration. On landing he was met by the Duke of Devonshire, who made the remarkable speech from which I have quoted. The Duke of Devonshire is better known as Marquis of Hartington, and he was leader of the liberal party on Mr. Gladstone's retirement, but is now leader of the liberal unionists. He is one of the most powerful men in the public life of England, and when he met these delegates and made the important statements which I have read, one would have thought the Premier of Canada in rising to respond would have uttered the sentiments which he expressed in Montreal, when he said a commission was going to England after the elections to push and advocate the question of preferential trade and to get it too, he said, because the reform party have the correct principle working at home. But what did he say:

"I claim for the present government of Canada that they have passed a resolution by which the products of Great Britain are admitted in the rate of their tariff at 12 1/2 per cent and next year at 25 per cent reduction. This we have done, not asking any compensation. There is a class of our citizens who ask that all such concessions should be made for a quid pro quo. The Canadian government has ignored all such sentiments. We have done it because we owe a debt of gratitude to Great Britain. We have done it because it is no intention of ours to disturb, in any way, the system of free trade which has done so much for England."

This was before he landed, or just on his landing, before mingling with English people at all, before any thing could have occurred on that side of the Atlantic to change the views he had previously expressed here.

"What we give you by our tariff, we give you in gratitude for the splendid freedom under which we have prospered. It is a free gift. We ask no compensation. Protection has been the curse of Canada. We would not see you come under its baneful influence; for what weakens you must weaken us."

Here we have this gentleman claiming to represent Canada as the premier of the country, going back on the declarations he had made before he had crossed the Atlantic, and while he was seeking popular favour here, and giving away this important question in this ignominious manner. What did Mr. Chamberlain say when he found that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had abandoned preferential trade. He said:

"It would have been hard enough to carry through the idea had all the colonies been persistent and enthusiastic advocates of it, but Canada does not favour it, and New South Wales opposes it. These are the leading colonies, and with them in practical opposition, it becomes impossible and I would not now touch it without a pair of tongs."

In the bitterness of his heart, he uttered these words, finding that the advance he had made in the citadel of free trade, where he had rallied around him the ablest men in Great Britain, was being checkmated by Sir Wilfrid's backdown. He found that all the work he had done was trampled under foot by the premier of Canada who spurned the olive branch of commercial friendship which he—Mr. Chamberlain—was stretching out to all the colonies on behalf of the people of Great Britain. If there could be any doubt as to the effect of the speech of Mr. Laurier, see what Mr. Rosebery said. He was the opponent of Mr. Chamberlain, and he was perhaps enjoying the discomfort of his opponent, although there is reason to believe from Mr. Rosebery's utterances that he was not very far from sympathizing, with some of the views Mr. Chamberlain had been giving expression to. He said:

"Mr. Chamberlain had a proposal which had some force and gained some strength, but now it must be approached with the reverence due to a corpse, for Canada's premier has said that if the British Empire is to be maintained it can only be on the condition of the most absolute free trade."

Now I will read an extract from the London Trades Journal, a very important commercial organ in Great Britain as hon. gentleman will admit. It discussed this question a little later, and the Trades Journal said this:

"From the day he (Sir Wilfrid) landed in England until the day he left, he seems to be oblivious to the fact that in his mission he was the representative of all Canada. He seems rather to have

imagined that he was sent here for his own self glorification and the interest of his party. When he arrived in England he found a large and influential section of the politicians and press full of enthusiasm over the preferential policy of Canada, and energetically discussing the corresponding duty of finding some equivalent advantage which Great Britain might confer on Canada, even if by so doing it might be necessary to modify the free trade policy of the past fifty years."

That is what the Trades Journal said was the condition of things there. A large and important section of the politicians and press of the country were looking round to see how they could meet Canada in the matter of preferential trade. The article continues:

"The complacent Sir Wilfrid following up his usual policy of conciliation which means abandonment of claims, relieved the merchants, manufacturers and politicians, with the press, from all necessity of further discussion, by informing them that they were troubling themselves without cause, because Canada neither wished for, nor would except any favours. It is little wonder that he achieved much popularity through such a surrender of Canada's claims. It may have been quite fair that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should claim credit for the fact that Canada granted preferential tariff treatment to England without any stipulation for an equivalent, but it was an act of supreme folly for him to tell the British government and people that Canada neither hoped nor desired any preference for its products on the markets of the mother country."

That is what the Trades Journal said, and no political opponent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Canada could put the case more emphatically than this commercial organ of Great Britain put it. Now, I noticed that my hon. friend the senior member from Halifax, who was speaking a moment ago, read an article from the Toronto Globe which purported to find an excuse for Sir Wilfrid in going back on his professions during his stay in England. I was surprised to find my hon. friend reading this extract from the Globe:

"Conservative newspapers keep up a constant fire of criticism on Sir Wilfrid Laurier because as they allege he refused to agree to a preferential tariff between Britain and Canada as proposed by Mr. Chamberlain. It is just as well that the real facts of the matter should be known. During the visit of colonial premiers to England, Mr. Chamberlain made the proposition that there should be absolute free trade between Great Britain and her colonies, on condition that Britain placed a small customs tax on commodities from foreign countries."

I have read you from Mr. Chamberlain's speech in opening the Chamber of Commerce. I have also in my possession a copy of the remarks that were put before the conference of colonial premiers when they met in June last in London by that hon. gentleman, and I fail to find that there is one iota of truth in this declaration of the Toronto Globe which my hon. friend read to the House. It cannot be found in these documents that Mr. Chamberlain laid down any such proposition. On the contrary in the Chamber of Commerce meeting he laid down the very opposite of it, for that is one of the two proposals which he said was practically impossible to expect Great Britain to give up everything, or the colonies to give up everything. Neither one was practicable. The settlement was to be found midway between the two extremes. There is not a word of truth in the Toronto Globe's statement.

Hon. Mr. Mills—My hon. friend showed the accuracy of that statement in the fourth proposition from Mr. Chamberlain's Speech.

Hon. M. Ferguson—My hon. friend is unfortunate in his interruption. He must consider the order of time a little. Sir Wilfrid landed in England before the conference met at all, and the Toronto Globe also rather forgot the order of time when it set up that plea for him, because his change of views as to preferential trade occurred before his landing on the shores of England, before the conference met at all, and therefore nothing which may have been said there could possibly have influenced him.

And my hon. friend was still more unfortunate in regard to the order of time, because his fourth proposition which he referred to was made nearly two years ago, a full year and a half before the landing of the premier in England at all and did not occur in any shape or form at the opening of the colonial conference of the premiers in 1897. Besides the fourth proposition was that a true zollverein, was a proper subject for discussion; therefore my hon. friend has not helped his leader at all, but rather has put him in a worse position than he was before he rose from his seat. I will not go back, I have already discussed that fourth proposition, I have already pointed out that Mr. Chamberlain mentioned exceptions from free trade and named the articles to which these exceptions would refer. He mentioned food, sugar and timber as articles on which the colonies might be given a preference. Therefore my hon. friend is very unfortunate in his interruption, because he has only left his premier in a worse position, if anything, than he was before.

Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell—He could not do that; that is impossible.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—We have followed the premier during the speeches he made in 1896 in Canada, we have followed him to England in 1897, and we find he went back there upon what he said in Montreal and Toronto, and when he came back to Canada he went back on what he said in England. We find that shortly after his return he addressed a meeting in Toronto at a banquet, and said:

"Certainly, if I thought I could have obtained for my country, for the products of Canada, a preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain, I would not only have been wanting in patriotism, but I would have been wanting in reason—I

simply would have been an idiot—if I had failed to obtain such preference."

Hon. Mr. Scott—He knew it was impossible.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Indeed, he said in Montreal during the last elections that all that was necessary to get preferential trade was for the Liberal party to come into power, when a revenue tariff would be adopted. They will say that they have done exactly that—all that was necessary to be done was to put the liberal party in power and adopt a revenue tariff, and that progressive statesman, Mr. Chamberlain, was ready to take them by the hand and give them preferential trade. He went to England, and before he met Mr. Chamberlain he went back and said I do not want any of your preference; but now he says he would have been an idiot if he could have obtained for his country such a preferential treatment and have failed to obtain it. I have no desire to describe the premier of this country as an idiot, but I cannot object to the classification which he himself has written down in a manner which is far from complimentary to his intelligence.

Hon. Mr. Scott—He says it was absolutely impossible.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Where did the light strike? Where did this conversion take place? It must have been about as sudden as the celebrated conversion on the journey from Jerusalem to Damascus. He had left here full of yearnings for preferential trade, and before he touched English soil, before he had met English opinion on the other side of the Atlantic, he gave it all up. Where did he become convinced that it was utterly and completely impracticable?

Hon. Mr. Scott—We have made the first step towards it. It may come in the next ten years. A great change would not come in twelve months.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—That looks as if somebody was going to change again. According to my hon. friend the vision must have occurred on the broad Atlantic, some supernatural communication must have been made to the hon. Premier of Canada to account for this wonderful change which has no parallel since that remarkable conversion which has occurred some eighteen hundred years ago on the road to Damascus. I have no hesitation in saying, hon. gentlemen, that Canada instead of being placed in a more advantageous position on account of the friendship of England at the present time than she had enjoyed before we have lost ground that has been worked up for Canada and for the other colonies with great industry in the face of strong obstacles by the most eminent men in the colonies and most eminent men in Great Britain together notably among these men who have fought and toiled in and day out year in and year out to put this question in the happy shape in which it stood when Sir Wilfrid Laurier went to England, in Sir Charles Tupper, the leader of the conservative party in Canada; and the work he did was resented to by Mr. Chamberlain and there was every prospect of an agreement being reached and a solution being found when there was so much real desire for preferential trade within the bounds of the empire, but all this has been lost for the present and a set back has been given to that question, the effects which I am afraid will last many years to come by the action of the premier of this country in this Jubilee year. But I am very glad to find

from a recent speech made before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, on the 18th January of this year, though bitterly disappointed with regard to the premier's action in the meeting of the colonial premiers last summer, that Mr. Chamberlain is pretty well back on his old ground again. He is not going to give up the fight. Probably he has found out that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in England he did not speak the views of Canada on this question. We find that Mr. Chamberlain addressing the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool last month said:

"Our policy is to bind the colonies closer to us by all means in our power, and if not practicable yet to pave the way for a future union which will be closer than anything that is now practicable."

The hon. Secretary of State read where some two years ago Mr. Chamberlain was counting up the profit and loss; but now, he says, we have got a step further, we will not keep a strict account of profit and loss.

That they will seek to be assured of a present pecuniary gain for so much concession on their part. No! I think they will look, and look wisely, rather to a future time when we shall find our reward and that the splendid isolation with which our foreign critics sometimes taunt us, will be transformed into a union of the British race and when the sons of Britain throughout the whole world shall stand shoulder to shoulder to defend our mutual interests and common rights.

We shall not attempt—that would be foolish to put pressure on our fellow colonists to go one step farther than they themselves desire to go. It is not for us to take initiative. We should rather follow the lead; but what I think we have already accomplished is to them that wherever they live, however far their home may be from the centre and from the motherland, we, at any rate, are prepared to meet them more than half way in any approach which they may make to us, in any desire which they may express for a closer union, and gentlemen, it will come, if not in our day, then in that of our successors.

In what form I know not. It would be foolish to attempt to predict. It may be in the shape of commercial union or of an Imperial zollverein, which I do not believe to be so absurd as do some political economists. It may be in the shape of some Imperial council which will represent the federation of the British races, and which has been advocated by men as different in other respects as the late Mr. Forster, Lord Rosebery and Lord Salisbury, but in whatever way it is presented to us, we shall not be deterred, either by the economic pedantries or the selfishness—which

is a virtue with some politicians—from giving favourable consideration to any proposals which our brethren across the seas may make to us. And in such consideration, I for one do not believe the English people will keep a strict account of profit and loss.

He says now, proudly, notwithstanding all the set backs received it will come, if not in our time, in that of our successors. References have been made to the flattering reception which the premier received in England, and the eloquent speeches that he made. In these respects we are all pleased. We are pleased notwithstanding his waywardness upon this great question—that as the representative of Canada, he was received with enthusiasm, and we are also pleased to know that apart from this question upon which he has made such a great and fatal mistake, he acquitted himself in a manner that was creditable to Canada. We are proud of his eloquence. We are glad that since it fell to the Liberal party so represent us in England that it devolved upon him, as far as eloquence was concerned, to have performed the task, regretting as we do at the same time that he fell so far short of his duty in respect to the most important of all questions with which he had to deal when he was in the motherland. Reference has been made by my hon. friend from Monck to a great mistake which was made in concurring the Cobden medal upon the wrong man. I agree with him, and I am serious in it. I think that the Cobden medal was not conferred upon the gentleman in Canada who had the fairest and the best right to it. If the free trade club had intended to confer any honor or distinction upon any man in Canada who has stood up for the principle of free trade, they should have conferred it upon a gentleman who was in England also at the time, my hon. friend from Shell River, and not upon the Premier of Canada, who, I claim, has no title whatever to any recognition of that kind from the Cobden Club, because so far from being a faithful adherent of the principles of free trade, he stands today in the very opposite position in Canada. Now, I will read what Lord Farrar said when making the presentation to the premier of Canada. You will see how entirely they were mistaken with regard to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the attitude of his party on the trade question in Canada. He said:

"There is a party amongst us who would willingly discriminate against German and Belgian goods, and would look upon the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties as a step towards what they have been pleased to call the commercial federation of the empire—a system under which commercial union in the different parts of the empire will be fostered by laws excluding or discouraging foreign goods. If this were to be the consequence of what you have done, I need hardly say that we of the Cobden Club would not have been here."

They would not have presented him with that medal if they understood that he was going to take advantage of the denunciation of the treaties for the purpose of giving advantage to British goods over foreign productions; yet we have my hon. friend the Secretary of State announcing a tariff change already, exactly in the direction that the Cobden Club said that if they suspected that was what Sir Wilfrid Laurier was going to do they would not have been there to present him with the medal. What the Government called the reciprocal clause in the tariff of last year turned out not to be a reciprocal clause or a preferential clause, they hardly can tell themselves today what its scope and bearing is, but it is going to be made preferential with the will of parliament in the present session. Parliament is going to be moved by the gentlemen opposite, the Secretary of State and his colleagues to convert it into a preference in favour of British and colonial over foreign goods. So this medal of the Cobden Club was obtained under false pretences.

Hon. Members—He should send it back!

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I have no hesitation in saying they would not have presented him with the medal if they had suspected the stand which he is now taking. He took the medal, comes home and his Secretary of State says he is going to give a preference for British goods over foreign products. It being six o'clock I move that the debate be adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I have no hesitation in saying they would not have presented him with the medal if they had suspected the stand which he is now taking. He took the medal, comes home and his Secretary of State says he is going to give a preference for British goods over foreign products. It being six o'clock I move that the debate be adjourned.

Hood's Pills
Are gaining favor rapidly. Business men and travellers carry them in vest pockets, ladies carry them in purses, housekeepers keep them in medicine chests, friends recommend them to friends. 2c.

Our great hat sale for one week is to make room for 18 cases of Christy's celebrated London hats that we expect to open up in a few days.—Prowse Bros.—The Stylish Hatters. 47 St.

Do you want a New York Cap? We will open our New York hats and special London shapes next week.—Jas. Paton & Co.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY.—Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. Is pleasant to the taste. Sold by druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Its value is incalculable. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, and take no other kind.

BETTER than cure is prevention. By taking Hood's Sarsaparilla you may keep well, with pure blood, strong nerves and a good **APPETITE**.

"For Coughs"

I regard Ayer's Cherry Pectoral as superior to any cold or cough medicine made. I have used it for years and am never without a bottle in the house.

J. T. COOKE, Publisher, Waynesboro, Va.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral
Medical Advice Free. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.

'Tis not all Gold

THAT GLITTERS

Many are taken in now-a-days, and are paying from ten to twenty dollars for a watch not worth five, by buying from peddlers and others who are not watch-makers.

Do not be Deceived.

But when you want a reliable watch buy only of one who understands the trade and asks only a fair price for a good article.

G. H. TAYLOR

Jeweler and Optician.

Charlottetown.

WATCHES.

EVERY ONE TIMED

BEFORE SOLD

18 size	\$7.50	to	\$95.00
16 "	8.50	"	50.00
15 "	2.50	"	35.00
6 "	5.50	"	50.00
0 "	4.00	"	50.00

Screw Bezel and Back, O. F.

18 size	\$8.50	to	\$40.00
14 "	8.60	"	14.00

Your initials engraved on back free of charge.

E. W. TAYLOR,

Cameron Block.

City.

Jan 14 1898 & w

HENRY R. LORDLY C. E.

A. M. Can. Soc. C. E.

Graduate College of Civil Engineering Cornell University. Consulting Engineer for General Work, Specialties: Hydraulic, Sanitary Engineering and Bridge Designing. Offices at Charlottetown and St. John. Island correspondents address to Charlottetown.

We are not going to move

But we are selling Crockery just as cheap as we were.

Special discounts on all Crockery China and Glass now in stock, to make room for spring importations. Also—First class Photographs made in all the leading styles, at the old stand,

C. LEWIS,

Exactly opposite the North Side of Market House. GRAFTON STREET.....

TENDERS

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned, until March 11th, noon, for the building of the foundation of a new Church at Tracadie, P. E. I., all the material being supplied, Tenders for the same will also be received, all the labor except the mechanical being supplied, as well as the materials. Plans and specifications to be seen at the Parochial House. P. G. HOGAN, P. P.

Feb 25 d&w td