

DISPOSITION OF SONGHEES LAND

PREMIER MAKES A STATEMENT IN HOUSE

Government Expects Treasury to Be Recouped by Sale of the Reserve

Legislative Press Gallery, Feb. 17. A statement was made by the premier to-day on the matter of the Songhees reserve, in the course of the discussion of the estimates.

H. C. Brewster, on the item of \$750,000 for "Songhees Indian reserve and purchase of new reserve, including necessary expenses," asked if it was the expectation of the government that this sum would be returned through the final disposition and sale of the present reserve.

"The government hopes to have a final settlement of this long-standing affair reached at a very early date," replied Premier McBride. "As soon as this has been done the minister of lands proposes to take the advice of competent men as to subdivide the lands in question as may permit of an early and profitable sale of them, and the government for what it may be out of pocket."

"Considering the very central position which this reserve occupies, right here in the heart of the capital of the province of British Columbia, there should be no question of a very ready market for the lands. Details, of course, cannot be expected with regard to the process that will be finally adopted until the arrangements under way have been fully consummated, but I can promise my friend that the government will be very anxious to consult all interests that may be involved before making any final determination of the matter."

"Honorable gentlemen will know that different railway companies, the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern in particular—have been looking over the ground with a view to seeing what, if anything, may be done in the way of providing more efficient terminals. The year past has been a busy one in regard to the necessity and general interest of the public in having some land reserved for park purposes in the western part of the city."

"There is also, according to current rumor, a new project for a project for the continuation of Johnson street to the water's edge, which would permit of a bridge being constructed across so contact with the water front directly with the reservation. Considering the great importance not only to the city but to the province as well that must attach to the opening up and development of this available piece of land, I am quite satisfied that within the next few weeks we shall receive from many quarters different inquiries with regard to the ultimate disposal of this property. Since we have asked parliament to vote such a large sum of money as the estimates call for in this connection I can assure the House that we shall be most anxious in our expenditure of it, and do all we can to fully recoup the treasury of the province for what it may expend."

Mr. Brewster said he could not expect details, but he would like to know whether, as some of the papers had claimed, this was a gift to Victoria of \$300,000 or so or whether the government expected to be recouped by the sale of the land. He stated from the premier's reply that this expenditure was practically money advanced which was to be refunded to the treasury.

"Yes, there is no doubt that is the expectation of the government," replied Mr. McBride. "It has never been the intention of the government to provide by way of gift for the granting of \$750,000 to the city of Victoria, and I doubt very much if the city would ever look for such a generous gift. The requirements of the city generally, so far as they may be fair and generous, the government of the day will not hesitate to see provided for, but to go further than that I am not prepared to do. If my friend from Alberni understood from the badge speech, or preliminary to that, that that was a gift to Victoria he is laboring under a mistake."

"Some few years ago, before real estate dealers reached their present figures, the government promised to the city of Victoria quite a large acreage over in the Songhees reserve for a park. We find now, however, that on account of the very rapid and substantial rise in real estate values it will be impossible to live up to this arrangement. The mayor of Victoria and his colleagues of the council have been notified of that. This does not mean that we are not very cognizant of the fact that the municipal authorities here, having the local government of this district as their principal work, should be consulted, as far as the government may reasonably consult them with a view to the final disposition of this matter."

BIG BRICK COMPANY.
Montreal, Feb. 18.—It is learned that application has been made for incorporation of a new brick company, with an authorized capital of \$2,000,000. Very strong financial interests are behind this enterprise, and the company has secured control of extensive clay and shale deposits, upon which development work will begin at once.

ELEVATOR DESTROYED.
Chicago, Feb. 18.—Fire destroyed the Calumet elevator, a six-story structure, containing 500,000 bushels of grain late last night, causing a loss estimated to be \$500,000. Seven firemen were injured while escaping from the burning building, following an explosion of grain dust.

"ANNEXATION" BENNETT TALKS

NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN OUTLINES HIS VIEWS

Says Reciprocity Will Give Canada Great Advantages Over States

(Times Leased Wire.)
London, Feb. 18.—Asserting that the ultimate result of reciprocity between Canada and the United States will surely be the annexation of the former, the Daily Express to-day prints a long cable interview with Congressman Bennett of New York, whose annexation resolution was yesterday killed by the House committee on foreign affairs of the American congress. Bennett said:

"The sentiment for the annexation of Canada is practically unanimous in the country. This feeling has been crystallized by the reciprocity proposition which gives Canada great material advantages with little corresponding advantages to the United States, unless there is ultimate compensation in annexation. The proposition will be pressed vigorously and may be an issue in the next presidential campaign."

"Canada is in a backward state of agricultural development because it lacks a home market, and is dependent on the distant English market. The advantages of an American market will develop Canada's agriculture at the expense of retarding American agriculture. The logic of these truths, driven home, as it will be, by the actions of Canadian competition with our farmers, by the exclusion of our manufacturers from Canada and by Canada's preferential tariff in favor of English manufactures, will add to the intensity of the present widespread sentiment in favor of expansion toward the north."

"This situation may well cause a fear in the hearts of moderate men lest it may be pushed beyond the restraints of peaceful diplomacy. We are a nation of 90,000,000 and the cyclonic force of such a democracy is not within the formulas of ordinary historic measurements."

"Supporting its attitude that there is a real danger of American aggression, the Express points out the fact that the morning papers published in the foreign affairs committee does not mean that the other members were opposed, but merely that they yielded to the importunities of President Taft, who demanded that the resolution be killed. It says that the committee has merely stifled the outcry that would follow such a measure until the ratification of the reciprocity treaty."

Most of the morning papers in London seem to have lost interest in the Bennett proposal and mention it in a perfunctory manner.

TELEGRAPH OPERATORS MAY GO ON STRIKE

More Trouble Between Great Northwestern Company and Its Employees

(Special to the Times.)
Toronto, Feb. 18.—For the third time in seven years in the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company threatened with a strike of its operators. A new schedule of wages, asking for minimum salary of \$30 per month, was presented to the management on February 2 by a committee holding authority from the great majority of the employees, and the committee asked for a conference. The company replied by first discharging the committee and then dismissing eight of those who refused to sign a paper which stated that they were satisfied with present conditions and that the committee were not authorized to act. Approximately twenty-five employees have been dismissed so far, and it is reported that others will follow as rapidly as men can be obtained from the United States to fill their places.

The minimum salary of operators in the Great Northwestern is \$25 per month, with a maximum of \$70; they want the same scale as the C. P. R., which is 15 to 30 per cent. higher.

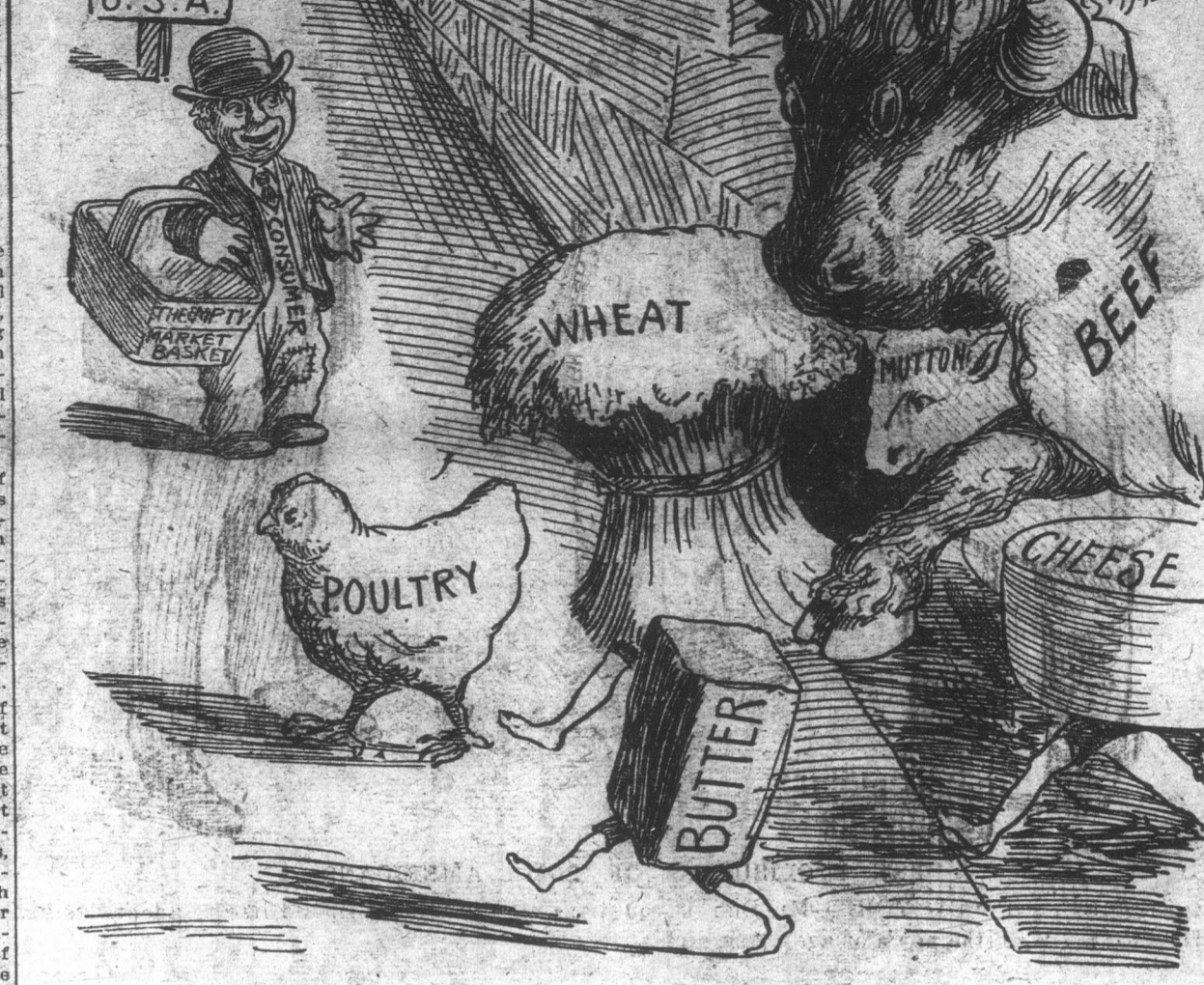
NOT ALLOWED TO WITHDRAW.
Armour Company Must Not Leave Missouri Until Case Is Heard.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 18.—Plans of the Armour Packing Company to withdraw from Missouri and thus leave the state "up in the air" with no object for prosecution in the anti-trust cases, were balked here to-day. Attorney-General Major instructed the secretary of state not to allow the Armour company to surrender their license to do business in Missouri and that they must remain to face the music.

QUEBEC MURDER TRIAL.
Montreal, Feb. 18.—All documents in connection with the charges of murder against the Houle brothers of Beauharnois were brought to Montreal yesterday by the clerk of the crown in Valleyfield. There have already been two postponements in this case in Beauharnois district, so it has been decided to try it in Montreal, when the court of King's bench opens next month. Disagreements in the case have resulted in the brothers being kept in jail two years already.

"COME IN!"

WHEAT, POULTRY, BUTTER, BEEF, CHEESE



U. S. VIEW OF RECIPROcity.

TRAVELERS TAKEN TO PENITENTIARY

Effort May Be Made to Secure His Evidence in Farmers' Bank Case

(Special to the Times.)
Toronto, Feb. 18.—W. R. Travers, former general manager of the Farmers' Bank, has been hurried off by Kingston just when his evidence began to get "hot."

Early this morning Arthur Severs, an officer of the county sheriff's department, and John Brown, a constable, appeared at the jail with the necessary papers. Governor Chambers had nothing else to do but hand the prisoner over to them. In reality Travers has been held at the jail as a necessary witness in the various cases against those connected with the Farmers' Bank. Technically, however, he was merely at the jail awaiting removal at the service of the department of justice for the serving of his six-year sentence, at Kingston penitentiary. The local police and crown attorney are furious at his sudden removal. They promise to get him back in short order on a subpoena.

Travers testified yesterday afternoon and was billed to reappear in the witness box again this morning in the resumption of the case against J. B. Stratton and others. Travers was taken away on the 9:10 train for Kingston.

"Never in the history of the police court has anything like this occurred," said Inspector Walter Duncan this morning. "If he had been down at the depot I would have arrested the whole lot of them, deputy sheriffs, constables and Travers. He was in my custody and I would have had a perfect right to do so. From the first someone has been trying to buck this inquiry. Instead of helping the police to get at the bottom of this crookedness, every obstacle has been thrown in our way. We have been successful in some measure and the fact that too many prominent people have been implicated is at the bottom of this attempt to throw the ends of justice. Travers has told me that threats have been carried to the jail that if he did not stop testifying against certain people that he would likely get twenty years added to his sentence."

The provisional directors of the Farmers' Bank, John Watson, John Ferguson, Alex. Fraser, A. E. Lown, appeared in court yesterday to answer the charge that they did conspire, confederate and agree to obtain by false representation the certificate required to enable the Farmers' Bank to open business. The names of J. J. Warren, J. R. Stratton and W. J. Lindsay were also added. They all pleaded not guilty.

BONUSES TO INDUSTRIES.
Toronto, Feb. 18.—Colonel J. J. Craig, Conservative M. P. for East Wellington, will introduce in the legislature a bill prohibiting municipalities from granting bonuses to industries, particularly to manufacturing industries, iron smelting or refining works, beet sugar factories, rolling mills or grain elevators.

BOWSER ACT IS CONDEMNED

COMPLAINTS MADE BY BRITISH MERCHANTS

Object to Travelers Being Excluded From British Columbia

(Special to the Times.)
London, Feb. 18.—The Associated Chambers of Commerce has resolved to make representations to the Colonial Office regarding the new law of taxation of commercial travelers in British Columbia as a consequence of which large numbers ceased to send representatives to the extreme west. The Colonial Office points out that as there have been several occasions when the Dominion government has complained of the legislative acts of British Columbia, it is possible that the offending act may come before the Privy Council for review.

RECIPROcity MEASURE IN U. S. SENATE

Finance Committee Arranges for Hearings Early Next Week

(Times Leased Wire.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—It was stated after a meeting of the senate finance committee to-day that the reciprocity measure will come up in the senate next week.

Senator Hale's absence caused a postponement of action to-day, but hearings will be held on Monday and Tuesday. The majority of the committee is opposed to the bill but it is believed that the measure will be smothered.

SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY.
Seattle, Wash., Feb. 18.—William E. Townsend, who styles himself a private detective, and Guy Gamble, are locked up in the county jail to-day, held as suspects in the mail car robbery case. The men are believed by the police to have held up and robbed the Northern Pacific train at Alvo station when Mail Clerk Henry Clark was shot and badly wounded. Unused car seals, candles and a loaded revolver were found on the men who were loitering about the railroad yards.

MERCHANT MURDERED.
Porterville, Cal., Feb. 18.—Posses to-day are scouring the hills around Porterville for a bandit who last night killed J. B. Lamkin, a merchant, in his store here.

The murderer, who is believed to be a Mexican, stabbed Lamkin seven times. Robbery is thought to have been the motive.

THANKS FROM RUSSIA.
Olympia, Wash., Feb. 18.—An official looking document, bearing a Russian stamp, arrived at the legislature yesterday. Opened, it turned out to be a communication from the Russian council of the Women's Suffrage League. It thanked the "Congress of the State of Washington" for giving votes to the women of this state.

HALF MILLION REPORTED DEAD

VICTIMS OF PLAGUE AND FAMINE IN CHINA

(Times Leased Wire.)
Peking, Feb. 18.—With official reports of 65,000 dead from the pneumonic plague in Manchuria and the Chinese foreign board had, pressed by the Russian government for a reply to the czar's note concerning Russian representations with regard to the ill provision in Chinese Turkestan, a feeling of deep alarm and unrest prevailed here to-day. Despite the figures just received of plague fatalities, the belief is general to-day that the deaths are double those of official estimates.

The financial drain on the Chinese government caused by the spread of the plague is heavy, and an announcement is expected that the empire will be forced to negotiate extra heavy loans.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—Consulting General Wilder yesterday reported to the Navy and War Department that 250 Chinese died of plague in Harbin, the ground there, he says, is frozen hard and as burials are impossible coffin burials are necessary for a while until the ground thaws. He said that 400 corpses have been cremated, despite the violent opposition of the people.

Consulting General Wilder reports practically every village in the province of Shantung is plague-stricken, and more than a dozen physicians have succumbed. All over Manchuria, he says, the plague is increasing.

Famine Victims.
Nanking, China, Feb. 18.—The provincial authorities to-day ordered the cremation of all unburied famine victims in the villages of Anhui and Kiang Su provinces. Every house contains a corpse, and conditions in the towns are most revolting.

In anticipation that the peasants will violently oppose the work of cremation, soldiers ride on the death carts. It is estimated that 500,000 persons already have died. Two millions are near death from starvation.

JAPAN MAY GO TO RUSSIA'S AID

BELIEVED TO BE PREPARING FOR ACTION

Russian Declares Chinese Have Spread Plague to Check Foreign Encroachment

(Times Leased Wire.)
Manila, Feb. 18.—Indication that Japan may mix in the trouble on China's border is seen here to-day in the announcement that the Japanese government has purchased 1,000,000 tons of rice from the fields of Bangkok, Burma and Saigon.

With Russia pressing China hard, the size and suddenness of the purchase, coming at such a critical period in Oriental affairs, has spread a feeling of deep concern throughout the Far East, and it is generally believed here that Japan intends to put an army in the field in co-operation with Russia against China.

Russian's Charge.
Berlin, Feb. 18.—That China deliberately spread the pneumonic plague in Manchuria to check the encroachment of Russia is the charge made here to-day in the Lokal Anzeiger by Professor Skortchenko, a Russian statesman.

He declares China deported plague patients from Southern China, where the plague was incessantly epidemic, to Manchuria, and that clothing sent to the Manchurians from China was first infected with plague germs. The precedent for this, he says, was established in Early Chinese wars against the Tartars, hundreds of years ago, when the Chinese threw the bodies of plague victims into the camps of the enemy, starting disastrous epidemics. May Resort to Arms.

London, Feb. 18.—Every indication that China will resist the threatened occupation of three of her provinces by Russia by force of arms is contained in notes received here to-day by the foreign office from the consular offices of Europe. All of them believe that the czar must have the bayonets or his bayonets will prove useless.

Britain, it is said unofficially, will second the attitude of the United States that the czar's action is entirely unwarranted. Along this line the Morning News says editorially to-day: "Clearly we are not witnessing a demand for justice, but an act of vulgar aggression. It is hoped that England will not support Russia in her desire because American is likely to unfavorably regard such a wanton outrage. England has no interest in increasing China and provoking the United States at the behest of Russia."

RUSSIAN MUST STAY IN QUARANTINE

Authorities Are Unable to Improve Condition of the "Cholera Carrier"

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Although isolation in quarantine is driving a man violently insane, the government has decided that nothing can be done to improve his condition. The man is a Russian named Godlieb. He was detained at Grosse Ile quarantine station in the St. Lawrence last November as a cholera suspect. He developed the disease and apparently recovered, but became violent when the United States government learned of his "cholera carrier" status. The facts were submitted to the government, but it was decided that Godlieb must stay isolated despite his mental condition.

Portland Jewell Robbery.
Two Men Arrested Charged With Stealing Money and Gems.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 18.—Charged with the daylight robbery of the Diamond Palace jewelry store, when \$4,000 in cash and jewels were stolen after Jas. Gilbert, a clerk, was knocked senseless, William Johnson and H. S. Duplaise, formerly a bartender, are under arrest here.

Part of the stolen jewelry was found on the prisoners, and Andrew McDonald, a hotel porter, who was arrested while trying to dispose of some of the gems, has confessed his part in the matter and told the police that the other prisoners are the ones who did the work. Both of them have repeatedly declined to talk of the matter and the police have not ascertained whether it was Duplaise or Johnson who slugged Gilbert.

When detectives took Johnson and McDonald in custody at Second and Morrison streets after shadowing them for two days, Johnson pulled a short nickel-plated revolver from his pocket. Detective Coleman, however, pressed his own weapon against the man's back and prevented any overt moves by Johnson.

Practically 75 per cent of the jewelry remains unaccounted for. It is believed, however, that it will be recovered. Johnson and Duplaise were preparing to leave for Seattle when arrested.

VANCOUVER'S NEW ENGINEER.
(Special to the Times.)
Vancouver, Feb. 18.—F. L. Fellows, of Westmont, Montreal, has been appointed new city engineer for Vancouver at a salary of \$5,000 a year.

WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST DITCH

LATEST TURN IN OAK BAY AND WATER PROBLEM

City Council Decides to Appeal to Executive Against the Agreement

(From Saturday's Daily.)
A hint by Mayor Morley that it may be necessary to call a public meeting of the citizens in order that action might be taken to lay before the legislature a protest against the proposed private bills committee relative to the Oak Bay bill for a water supply, and the unanimous decision of the board to attend in a body at a meeting of the executive on Monday, were developments at last evening's session of the city council, when F. A. Diarmid, city solicitor, reported the result of the attempts made on behalf of the council holding the bill.

In presenting the agreement to the committee at yesterday's session, the solicitor remarked that he did not know if it met the views of any of the members of the committee. Mr. Ald. Langley directed attention to the fact that the agreement was of the importance of the matter, and that a meeting of the council should be held to consider the agreement, and that he suggested a special meeting for Monday evening.

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The Mayor—I should not think it would pass.

Mr. Ald. Langley—I think this matter should be safeguarded from the point of view.

Mr. Ald. Langley—Well, you won't be long to discuss it. I agree with Mr. Ald. Langley that this is a very dangerous feature of the situation. The point of Oak Bay would, of course, pass the bill, but the expense of the city of the city's expense. It will be, however, the matter should be thoroughly discussed by the people of Victoria, and a public meeting for Monday evening next. We don't want any herring drawn across the street, a clear-cut exposition of the situation. Then the people could hold a meeting with the agreement and vote against the actions of the private bills committee. I am sure the agreement cannot afford to treat the city of Victoria lightly. But we must discuss this bill will go through in the committee. The Solicitor—Mr. Taylor has drafted. All it specifies on the matter raised by Ald. Langley is that an ever agreement is entered into by the people of Oak Bay with the company shall be sanctioned by the city, but the by-law for the purchase of the pipe need not go to the people. The private bills committee can make it compulsory to have a public hearing measure submitted, but it must be settled on Monday morning.

Ald. H. M. Fullerton felt sure that Victoria ought to have been relieved from taking over the pipe of the city of Oak Bay.

This would settle the matter with the people of Oak Bay. The city of Victoria would be very much relieved. All it specifies on the matter raised by Ald. Langley is that an ever agreement is entered into by the people of Oak Bay with the company shall be sanctioned by the city, but the by-law for the purchase of the pipe need not go to the people. The private bills committee can make it compulsory to have a public hearing measure submitted, but it must be settled on Monday morning.

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WELCOME RAINFALL.
Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 18.—Farmers throughout Oklahoma are smiling because of a down-pour of rain. For the first time since the ground is wet enough to be ploughed.

The mayor of Guthrie, as a joke, claimed that no umbrellas should be used, and many citizens who had been told that it was no use to get out let a precious drop go to waste.

WILL PROBATED.
Vienna, Feb. 18.—The will of Baron Albert S. A. De Rothschild, head of the Austrian branch of the Rothschild house, was filed for probate yesterday. It bequeaths \$500,000 to charity, and distribution will be left to the discretion of the baron's sons. Baron De Rothschild died February 1. The small bequest to charity has caused disappointment here, as it had been rumored that the amount would be \$2,500,000.

LIBERAL

Mass Meeting

Resolution

"RESOLUTION meeting agreement"

(From F...)
In these words... street hall last... reciprocity... Laurier's govern... a single disenti... tion of a party... and comprehen... whole case had... speakers being... Brewster, M.P.P... A. Pauline.

Mr. Ross went... fully, giving fir... historical review... since long before... political parties... agreement with... going on to show... how the arrang... was going to be... summer and prod... of American prod... on it all. How... of this duty got... citizens of Victo... The hall was v... eral speeches... attention, the p... plauded vigorous... F. A.

The chairman... meeting had been... Association of... Victoria an oppon... approval of the... ment of the Las... negotiation of a... ment with the... of British Col... informed by the... of their provinc... port annually... dollars worth of... duty, so that... duty would mean... in the cost of liv... had told his Cons... must not be... that it would not... It was claimed... was going to in... of British Colum... the second discus... on the Fraser r... would be of crea... age to the timbe... Columbia. We w... would be destr... try, but when v... responsible... raising they told... be advantages... ages, and that... favor of British... rangement was of... the people of the... of the end... greatest good to... It was sometin... of the Liberal... Wilfrid Laurier h... would be discus... fine to advance the... were otherwise... British preference... towards free trad... another bill of... taken one at a ti... so that while Ca... wards free trade... danger her manut... H. C.

briefly, as he had... lative duties at the... House, was warn... He pointed out the... way in which res... telligently... dian government... ments for the wh... not the interests... that were to be... interests of Nova... wick; but any tr... take in the whole... Edward Island to... Be in the interes... Canada.

To discuss rec... we must reconci... standpoint is the... sidered. If we di... but that as such... simply got an... was gone to in... industry in this... rood of Canada i... but that as such... injured local in... in spite of the... est good for the... which be useless... which came from... in the. The mem... agree that it must... carried out effec... fit to that portio... measure of mate... been enforc... the old reciprocity... servative would... own party in th... no doubt the th... other provinces d... Brewster, as ov... connected with a...