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THE WESTERN ADVERTISER. (OUR WEEKLY EDITION.)

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> God's in his heaven, All's right with the world. -[BROWNING.

London, Tuesday, August 7.

-Only those communications to which the writers are willing to have their names aplended in print will be rublished in these columns. Neither the writing nor the publication of anonymous letters can be justified.

THE RECENT INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The official report of the Intercolonial Conference at Ottawa has just been given to the press after careful revision. An attentive perusal only confirms the impression already formed by the Canadian public that while the idea of the conference was well-intentioned, and its realization an edifying illustration of the unity of the empire, it has been barren of practical

This was the confession of one of the ablest delegates, Mr. Lee Smith, of New Zealand, who, on almost the last day of their deliberations, after the assembly had coronounced upon the main issues before it and mapped out its lines of action, remarked "that the conference had hitherto been discussing only abstract questions, and that they were going home without any result at all." Even the Earl of Jersey, the shrewd diplomat of the mother land, appointed by Lord Rosebery to play a passive part in the conference-to keep his ears open and his mouth closed, in fact-felt constrained to ask his colleagues to reduce their vaporing to facts, "because," he said, "unless I get something of that kind I think you will see I shall be placed in a very difficult position, and will have to generalize a good deal in the matter."

It is only necessary to quote the resolution of Mr. Foster, the Canadian Finance Minister, to show one reason why success did not crown their efforts:

"Whereas, the stability and progress of the British Empire can be best assured by drawing continually closer the bands that unite the colonies with the mother country, and by a continuous growth of a practical sentiment and co-operation in all that pertains to the common welfare;

"And, whereas, this co-operation and unity can in no way be more effectually promoted than by the cultivation and extension of the mutual and profitable interchange of their products;

"Therefore, resolved: "That this conference record its belief in the advisability and practical possibility of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and her colonies, by which trade between the empire may be placed on a more favorable tooting than that which is earried on with foreign countries.

"That, impending the assent of the mother country to such an arrangement, in which she shall be included, it is desirable that the colonies of Great Britain, or such of them as may be disposed to accede to this view, take immediate steps to place each other's products on a more favored customs basis than is accorded to the like

products of foreign countries." There can be no objection to the preamble, though it comes with scant grace from one who has done his utmost to discourage British trade with Canada by refusing to lower the customs walls against her; but when Mr. Foster attempts to resurrect the corpse of British differential trade, which has long been buried under the weight of public ridicule in England, and to galvanize it into the liveliest issue of the conference, he sets the stamp of failure on it from the start. He must have known that he was chasing a phantom, but if he did not, as every sane politician does, there were those at the Conference who did not hesitate to tell him. Mr. Suttor, of New South Wales, pointed out that the resolution invited England to abandon her free trade policy, and asked if they were at this time prepared to commit themselves to such an expression of opinion as that? Mr. Lee Smith, of New Zealand, believed the true policy of England was in continuing free trade. Said he: "Mr. Foster's proposed differential allowance of 5 per cent would be inappreciable in comparison with the great market of London. Great Britain had thrown open her ports to the world of raw products, and to help the colonies in the way proposed she would have to put a duty on these. English people would not stand a duty on wheat or wool or any similar commodity."

If other arguments were needed to convince Mr. Foster of the folly of the preferential trade fad, they were supplied by the Earl of Jersey. He warned the conference that though it was within its power to record its belief as to the practical possibility of the first resolution, yet he thought he ought to point out that it would be well to consider, before the resolution was passed, whether there were not difficulties in the way. More than three-fourths, or 76 per cent, of Britain's trade, he reminded them, was outside the empire. If Great Britain was called upon usually fifteen years and its earnings to break up the whole of her commercia | 300,000.

this outside trade would undergo an alteration of some kind, continued the earl, and effect any great change would have on this 76 per cent of the trade which she carried on with the world. Though these remarks of Earl Jersey's were doubtless carefully guarded and "craftily qualified" to conform with his delicate relations to the conference, the inference is plain that he considered the proposition not only chimerical, but rash. Mr. Foster's resolution, however, was carried, the vote by colonies being:

"Yeas-Canada, Tasmania, Cape of Good Hope, South Australia, Victoria-5.
"Nays-New South Wales, New Zea-

land, Queensland-3." The delegates who voted for it probably did so under the impression that though it was hopeless to look for such concessions, there could be no harm in asking for them. In opposition to the claim that this scheme would immensely benefit the colonies by giving their produce an advantage in the English market, is the view of Hon. Mr. Forrest, the delegate from Queensland. He

"England is the great dumping place, for the surplus products of the world are received there. There she manufactures these products and prepares them for distribution all over the world. England does not produce wool. She does not produce sugar, and there are lots of other things England does not produce; but you find amongst her exports a large amount of woollen goods that we do produce, and therefore, as a matter of fact, you will find that we are exporting to these foreign countries through England and to all her dependencies. Therefore, I say it behooves us to be most careful in anything that we may do in matters of this sort, and not interfere in any way with anything that will alter or cripple the trade of England. England, from her position and limited area, does not produce what exports. Therefore she must get the raw material from somewhere, and, as she is a great exporting and manufacturing country it is absolutely necessary that she should get the raw products as cheaply as she can. She must get the food for her people as cheaply as possible. The greatest bulk of England's trade is with foreign countries with whom she has treaties; and England's trade means our trade, and if we are not careful it may cause these nations to terminate these treaties at twelves months; and what I would like to have considered is this: Is it advisable to put a formal motion of this kind before the world, or is it advisable to try and get what we want without opposition? That is what I want to convey; and I think really this is worthy of consideration. The suspension of the treaties of the fereign nations with England would limit her trade and also limit our trade."

Mr. Forrest goes on to say that the colonies, should they secure a preferential tariff, might defeat their own object, that of extending their commerce, for if the mother country should cripple her own trade by yielding to this demand of her children, the business of the colonies, which is dependent upon that of Britain, must needs suffer

In a moment of candor-not weakness-Mr. Foster declared: "I want to see Britain's trade strongly developed, but you can search the annals through and you will find that Britain looks after number one, Europe wouldn't do it! and her colonies have to look after number one as well, and when it comes to business, her colonies ought to look after number one." In the next breaththis consistent politician moves a resolution demanding that Britain tax every man, woman and child within her borders, imperil 76 per cent. of her commerce, and shatter her whole financial fabric, which she has been 50 years erecting, all out of pure love for her colonies! Mr. Foster was right for once in saying that Britain looked after number one. Hard-headed, sensible John Bull allows no sentiment to interfere with business, and will quietly relegate the by no means unanimous resolution of the conference to oblivion. Mr. Foster advises the colonies to follow Britain's example and look out for number one in their own dealings. This is exceedingly rich, coming from the leader of a party which has sacrificed the commercial interests of the country and traded on spurious sentimena

The second part of Mr. Foster's resolution looks towards an extension of intercolonial trade on the preferential tariff plan. Canada needs an increase of markets as well as a decrease of taxation; but she cannot afford to pay too dearly for the former, and it is a question whether trade forced into artificial channels will be profitable, when our politicians refuse to cultivate natural markets at our doors at the bidding of monopoly. Mr. Foster during the discussion found the French wine treaty a veritable thorn in the flesh, because its enactment precluded the Australian colonies from receiving any tariff preference in that product over their French competitors in the Canadian market.

The project of the Pacific cable was lebated very fully. The commercial advantages of this cable would accrue almost entirely to the Australian countries or account of their remote and isolated positions; yet in the event of its construction Canada is called upon for an immense expenditure of money. Even the Australian delegates were by no means united, Mr. Playford (South Australia) pointing out that the proposed cable would compete with an overland telegraph established by his Government, and that, therefore, his colony would be unable to bear its pro rata share of the subsidy. The cable would be valuable from a strategic point of view, but that is hardly a matter of dollars and cents. The conference finally recommended that a survey of the route be first made, the cost to be borne equally by Britain, Canada and Australia. The third subject of discussion was the fast Pacific steamship service. Canada has already taken a huge load on her shoulders by subsidizing the Atlantic service. The Australian colonies should attend to the

Pacific route. On this matter the latter were likewise divided. The ideal of imperial unity can best be attained by following the imperial trade example, and the colonies are fast realizing it. Under the guidance of trade restrictionists they will never reach the goal.

Mulhall says the life of a locomotive is

system there was no doubt whatever that | UNITED STATES TAX REDUCTIONS A table of the reductions of taxation under the Wilson Bill as compared with England would have to consider what the McKinley Bill will be read with in-

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Clay pipes..... -Lieut. Gov. Mackintosh, of the Northwest Territories, got out a daisy of a governor's speech at the opening of the Northwest Assembly. Our idea is that he remembered how dull and long were some of the speeches from the throne with which he was afflicted in his reportorial days, and determined to give something lively, flamboyant, elequent and discursive, such as might serve as a model for all future generations. An extended and rhetorical speech to match the new Government House is in accordance with the

-It is very wicked of Japan and China to fight, and to covet other people's territory, and to keep up war ships, standing armies, etc. The Christian nations of

AN EDUCATOR.

Lucy Laney, of Augusta, Ga., is one of those remarkable women of her race who, in a modest way, have done so much for the education of their race. She is at the head of the Haines Industrial School at Augusta. She was born of slave parents, near Augusta, and at the close of the war was only a child. She had a great thirst for education, but had no means to secure it. Much to her surprise and gratification, two Christian women of the north met her and were so impressed by her that they gave her a scholarship in Atlanta University, where ate remained until her education was completed. She went back to Augusta and began her life-work, in the course of which she met Dr. Allen, the then secretary of the Home Mission Board of Educators for the Presbyterian work in the south. She asked him for a commission that would give her the power to start a school in the interest of the Presbyterian work. Dr. Allen wanted to know where she was to get the money to support the work. She told him to give her the power and God would help her to get the money. He gave her the commission, and in just two years the board was compelled to give her a building to accommodate the eager scholars she had gathered about her. Ten thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose, and the once slave child is now president of one of the most important female institutions of its character in the south .- [Philadelphia Ledger.

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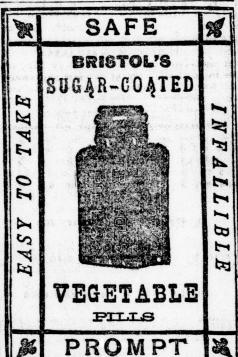
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