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**What May Happen.**

The adjournment of Parliament from May 19th to July 18th materially alters the political situation and renders some things probable which before were scarcely possible. Amongst these is a general election before another session of Parliament. The House will meet in July with little business before it but the Bank Act, and the Reciprocity Agreement. The former will not take up a very great deal of time and should be put through easily in a fortnight. The latter will be the bone of contention. It has not yet got further than the general debate upon the resolution and is not likely to be advanced between this and the date of adjournment. Nor is it likely that this general debate will be quickly completed when the House takes it up in the latter part of July. Neither will the importance of the subject be any the less apparent and pressing.

By that time the Senate of the United States will have acted upon it. Should this action be unfavorable of course the whole project would lapse, for it can scarcely be conceived possible that our Government would press it to a passage in the face of its defeat in the United States Senate. That fate, however, is scarcely to be anticipated for the measure. In all probability it will be passed by the Senate and thus taken out of the category of doubt by the time the Canadian Parliament re-assembles. Then all that will remain to be done for its effective operation will be the sanction of Parliament. This will bring the matter more forcibly to the attention of the country, and add piquancy and interest to the discussion.

When the House meets in July the indemnity to members will have been exhausted by the long session from November 17th until May 19th, a little over six months. The members will therefore be called upon to work but will draw no pay therefor. That creates a situation which will worry Sir Wilfrid, and which greatly complicates the question. His supporters will ask, and with reason, why they should be kept for months of the hot season and of arduous discussion to press a measure which might just as well have been laid over until the regular session beginning in November. They will remind Sir Wilfrid that he was advised by the Opposition that they intended to fight the pact to the bitter end, and that the three months from the last of July to the first of November bid fair to be but lost months, showing no results in legislation but intensely disagreeable and expensive to them. They could also point out that when the time for the regular session of Parliament comes in November, Sir Wilfrid will in all probability find himself exactly where he was on May 19th, so far as the Taft-Fielding pact is concerned.

Such a position would be well nigh intolerable for the Government. They would be faced by a people in the majority hostile to their project, by an Opposition united and determined to prevent the measure going into effect

without submission to the people, and on whom they would be dependent for daily supplies, and by an angry and discontented body of supporters whom they had dragged through the heats of summer and forced to work without either pay or rations, and to no purpose. Will the Government persist in facing such a situation? Not unless they are mad. Something will have to be done. We can only speculate as to which that something may be.

The Government could save the wounds of their supporters by granting an additional indemnity for the extended session. They would thus have virtually two indemnities in one year. But that would be unpopular. The country would at once ask why it was necessary to pay hundreds of thousands of its taxes to support the obstinacy of Mr. Fielding and the pro-American whims of the Premier, when there was no pressing necessity for the summer session, and when no conceivable interest would have suffered by waiting until November.

There is another way out. The census will be taken in June, and by rushing the work, it would be possible to have the population tabulations ready within two or three months. This would make it possible to apportion the representation and enact the redistribution of seats that would necessarily follow in good time to have a general election in the late autumn.

Sir Wilfrid may take this method of solving his difficulties and dealing with his disgruntled followers. There is certainly much to be said in its favor. The Government have to go to the people sooner or later. The objection which now holds good, that the new electorate should not be deprived of its voice on the Reciprocity Agreement, and which weighs both with the Government and the Opposition would vanish, and neither side would any longer feel hampered by that disability. The Government would get the increased vote in the Prairie Provinces, which it thinks will be favorable to the pact, while the Opposition would no longer be restrained from forcing the measure to a vote of the people by the thought that they were depriving many people of votes they should properly have. And the Government must see, if they are not blind, that the more time the people have to examine into and think over this agreement, the less favorable become the chances for its success at the polls. It will not be to their interest to court delay.

Altogether the probabilities point to an election in 1911, and the Conservatives should act accordingly, and at once begin to make their preparations. There is much to be done, the issue is of overshadowing importance, and duty to the party and the country alike, demands a thorough canvass and thorough organization. Good parliamentary work is an excellent background, but this must be extended to the remotest parts of every constituency by literature and word of mouth if the picture is to be adequately balanced. And with all this no victory can be assured unless the organization be thorough and effective.—St. John Standard.

Matters political, so far as the Local is concerned, seem to have been at a complete stand still for the last couple of weeks. During all this time Mr. Hazard, recently appointed a Judge, has been acting Premier, and Attorney-General, too, so far as is known. Evidently the new Leader, Mr. Palmer has been doing some hard thinking during these anxious days

**A Fight for the People.**

In the fight against Continentalism Mr. Borden has won the first battle. The leader of the Opposition has forced the Government to apply for a truce and has dictated the terms upon which hostilities are suspended. With this advantage gained, Mr. Borden's position is mightily improved, and the prospect now is that he may force the ministers to submit the issue to the people or to withdraw their project altogether. The former course—assuming that the Government is so completely in the hands of President Taft as to be unable to adopt the latter—precedent and common sense combine to support. Certainly, the attempt to effect so enormous a change in our relations to Great Britain on the one hand and to the United States on the other, as that contemplated in the Washington bargain, without consulting the electors, is a departure fraught with danger.

No other question of first class importance, the Mail and Empire points out, has been settled by a cabinet ukase. Confederation was referred to the electors. The National Policy was duly voted upon. The Canadian Pacific project was not designed until the country had endorsed it. To say now that an alteration in our National status can be made regardless of public opinion with reference to it is to attribute autocratic powers to a few ruling politicians and to deprive the masses of their self-governing rights. If a Government can turn us from British connection to Continentalism, simply because the spirit moves it in that direction, there is no limit to ministerial authority.

The great issue, then, in this discussion is that of democracy versus autocracy. When a party receives a majority in Parliament, it is bound by the principles in virtue of which it was elected, or has it received a mandate to do as it pleases irrespective of its pledges and of the wishes of the country? If the project the Government is trying to carry were one the consequences of which would be highly advantageous to the people, if it were one which follows the general policy of the country as hitherto laid down, its adoption might not be a very grave matter.

But this scheme does not come within either of the categories mentioned. President Taft, the father of the measure, has told us in plain terms what it means. He says its first purpose is to withdraw Canada from her British associations and to head us towards Washington. Closer relations within the Empire are to be prevented. Closer relations with the United States are to be promoted.

The second purpose is the destruction of the policy of reciprocity within the British Empire. Imperial trade is to be rendered impossible. Mr. Taft's next idea is the control by the United States of the natural resources of Canada that the industrial interests of the Republic may benefit. And, finally, Mr. Taft proposes to find in Canada a market for the surplus farm products of his own country. Other views of the bargain give it an even wider scope. Mr. J. J. Hill says it is designed to get Canada's trade for the United States, and Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, predicts that in its present shape it will make Boston the port for Canada, while in the form it will ultimately take it will give the industries of the United States complete control of the Canadian market.

The bargain means commercial, industrial and national

suicide for Canada. It impairs our commercial interests. It strikes at our farmers and at our artisans. It interferes with our position as a division of the British Empire. The struggle against such a scheme is a fight, not a party character, but of national significance. It is a battle for Canadian independence, for Canadian prosperity and for British connection.

Mr. Borden and his colleagues have conducted the conflict so far with success. That they will press on there can be no question. Public opinion is with them, and the interests of the country demand that they continue the work and that their hands be upheld. Every sound citizen, regardless of old party associations, should make it his duty to give them now, and when the decisive battle comes, the strongest support possible. Legislation without the authority of the people should not be tolerated, and legislation that destroys the business and thwarts the national aspirations of the people should be rejected in a manner so decisive that those who propose such a measure will not dare to attempt a repetition of the experiment.—St. John Standard.

**Reciprocity and the Egg Market.**

Canadian farmers have been told that once Reciprocity is adopted the demand for eggs from the United States will be so enormous that the price will rise to a point never before reached. But the representatives of Mr. Taft in the United States tell an altogether different story. The Washington Government, says the Boston Transcript, has undertaken to find out just how much of an egg layer the Dominion is. The result is rather astonishing. It appears to prove beyond question that with free trade in eggs the American egg man will have ready access to one of the finest egg markets of the world. The Canadians do not produce more than a fraction of the eggs they consume, "Hence," argues the Administration, "this is our opportunity."

The following Government table shows the Canadian exports and imports of eggs during the year ending March 31, 1911:—

Canadian egg exports;	
Dogsens.	
To the United States	39,917
To the United Kingdom	33,465
dom	
To Newfoundland	20,974
To Bermuda	10,700
To British West Indies	2,196
To Cuba	44,100
To St. Pierre	12,555
To all other countries	928

Total eggs exported by	
Canada	164,835
Canadian egg imports.	
From United States	757,316
From China	128,320
From all other countries	7,688

Total eggs imported 893,324. So that Reciprocity, instead of giving Canadians a market for eggs and improving the price, will give the United States the Canadian market, with the result that the price will come down.

London, May 15.—The greatest compliment ever paid here to a Colonial Minister, has been arranged for the Convention season, when Mr. Hearn, Premier of New Brunswick, will be entertained by the United States. Mr. H. A. J. Balfour himself will be in the chair. Other guests will be Mr. Hearn, Mr. Hearn's wife, Mr. Hearn's children; Mr. Hearn, Walter Long, Mr. E. K. Smith, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Lord Selborne and most of the other Front-Benchers.

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