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Our Ottawa Special

Finance Minister Foster Brings Down the Budget.

The Debt Statement Shows an Increase of $3,-322,403,

With the Certainty of Increased Expenditures To Be Met.

"The Country is Prosperous and the N. P. Helps the Farmer."

"No Way to Build Up the Country But by Taxation."

The "Same Old Policy" Will be Carried Out.

A Small Tub Thrown to the Tariff Reform Whale in the Matter of Coal Oil, Binder Twine and Mining Machinery—Sir Richard Cartwright Riddles the Finance Minister's Flimsy Defenses, and Resurrects the Government's Specious But Unfulfilled Promises.

[Special Editorial Correspondence by Telegraph.]

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—Though the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister was the great feature this afternoon, there were one or two other notable occurrences. Mr. Metcalfe presented a petition from Kingston City Council for the abolition of the duties on coal oil, sugar, corn and iron. Sir John Thompson laid on the table certain papers regarding the Manitoba school question. Then there was loud applause on the Liberal side when Mr. Laurier and Mr. Choquette introduced Mr. Tarte. The new member for L'Islet took his seat by the side of Mr. Bowman (Waterloo). Mr. McNeil asked if the Government intended to endeavor to secure preferential trade federation of the empire. Sir John Thompson said the Government so intended, and it was the intention of the Government to invite other colonies to join in the movement.

The Budget.

Mr. Foster was applauded when he rose to speak. There was a crowded chamber and gallery. The Finance Minister began by giving this statement of all the revenue and expenditures for the last two years:

CUSTOMS.	
1890-91	$23,399,300
1891-92	20,501,059
Decrease	$2,808,241
EXCISE.	
1890-91	6,914,850
1891-92	7,945,097
Increase	$1,030,247
MISCELLANEOUS.	
1890-91	8,265,160
1891-92	8,475,715
Increase	$210,555
TOTALS.	
1890-91	$38,579,310
1891-92	36,921,871
Decrease	$1,657,439

The Finance Minister claimed that this statement showed a reduction of 76 per cent. since 1890, and that it demonstrated that the Administration is reducing the aggregate taxation of the country. He claimed credit for reducing the duty on raw sugar which resulted in the consumption increasing from 223,800,000 pounds in 1888 89, to 345,418,485 pounds in 1891-92, or 75 per cent. increase.

A PERTINENT QUERY.

Dr. Landerkin—Why didn't you reduce the duties ten years ago?

Mr. Foster—Let us make haste slowly. The estimated expenditure for last year was $36,650,000. The actual expenditure was $36,765,894. There is an increase in the expenditure to be borne from consolidated revenue of $422,327, mainly caused by the length of the last session of Parliament. The expenditure had remained almost at a dead level for the last four years, and the Government could not be accused of rolling up the debt.

INCREASE IN THE DEBT OF $3,322,403.

He confessed that there had been an increase in the debt since last year of $3,-322,403. But the increase was more apparent than real, as $970,000 of that sum was caused by canceling the North Shore Railway bonds, an asset that had brought no revenue. Then last year the Government floated a 3 per cent. loan, which had to be sold at a discount, and the discount had to be added to the capital account.

As to receipts, the income for the year to 31st January had been $21,772,600, an increase of about $1,000,000 compared with last year. The amount of $16,948,542 was received in the last half of the year.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE

on loans and quarantine improvements were to be made; these will swallow up a considerable sum this year, and Mr. Foster said he was not at all certain that the expenditure could be kept down so as to come within the $36,500,000. The Government was spending heavily on capital account for the purpose of improving canals, and the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was being pushed forward with all possible speed.

THE COUNTRY SAID TO BE PROSPEROUS.

Mr. Foster next contended that the country was prosperous because the savings banks deposits had increased during the year. Domestic commerce, he said, was also prospering, though statistics are defective. The railway and shipping business had increased, and the foreign trade, both imports and exports, had made substantial strides forward. Trade with Great Britain had increased from $73,000,-000 in 1878 to $106,000,000 in 1892, or $15,000,000 over the previous year. The increase in trade with the United States had increased from $73,000,000 in 1878 to $92,000,000 in 1892, $27,000,000 less than the previous year. Canadian trade with France, Germany, Holland, West Indies and China had also greatly increased. The increase of trade with Britain had been substantial in agricultural products, in the mines $20,000 more, fisheries about the same, and in products of the forest $27,000,000 less.

NEWS FOR THE FARMERS.

Mr. Foster asserted that Canadian farmers are relatively as prosperous as farmers of other countries. He confessed that the price of the great farm staples is fixed by the production of the world and the wants of the people. He contended that the increased duties on farm products had kept a large quantity of United States products out of Canada and had thus helped Canadian farmers at the same time. The export of apples, fruits, oats, peas, wheat, flour, horses and cheese to Britain had much increased.

TARIFF CHANGES.

In coming to the question of tariff changes the Finance Minister said he saw he had not so far said much to interest gentlemen on the Opposition benches but hoped now to interest them. (Hear, hear.) No one, he said, can deny the fact that there has been more or less agitation with regard to the tariff and trade conditions of the country. All may not take a statesmanlike view of the question, but of the agitation and of the fact that the people are alive to it there can be no doubt. The influences which have been at work to cause the agitation had been various. There have been since 1878 those who believe in free trade, those who favor a revenue tariff and those who have adopted moderate protection.

"UNFAIR" PROTECTION POSSIBLE.

It could not be denied that what was fair protection in 1878 might by altered circumstances be unfair now. This fact had helped those opposed to existing conditions, as had also the McKinley Bill. The latter raised the tariff against Canadian products, and every interference with trade causes loss, at least for a time. The agitation certainly has been sharpened by the result of the United States elections, which, he said, have been unduly manufactured by persons in this country into a victory for free trade, pure and simple. (Hear, hear.) The unprecedentedly low prices of cereals also contributed to agitation for tariff reduction, but no sane man can say that the Government is responsible for the low price of grain. Some men do so hold, and all is fair in politics.

Mr. Laurier—Oh, no; in war only.

Mr. Foster—There is in addition to all these causes, the propagandists who make the people entirely dissatisfied and restless. Every man recognizing the great extent of the Dominion, its sparse population, and its different creeds, must recognize that if ever we are to become a great country, we must live, progress and prosper as a whole. We do not ask that any class shall go scot free, but that every class and section, proportionately to its strength, bear its just and equal proportion of the burdens of the country in order to gain power. Certain persons are taking advantage of the present state of things to advance a proposition that means disruption. People go out from meetings of the gentlemen opposite under the belief that we can have trade and no taxation. (Laughter.) These tactics are to be condemned as there is no way to build up this country

BUT BY TAXATION.

What the Government intends to do will be stated frankly, honestly and fairly. While the Government acknowledges the fairness of some of the tariff reform arguments, it does not intend to be either frightened or forced into doing something which it does not believe to be right. It proposes that the most careful and vigorous investigation shall be made into the whole taxation question, and to provide such a policy as shall be best for the country as a whole and for all classes in the country. (Cheers from the Conservatives and ironical cheers from the Liberals.) The Government proposes to adopt a policy and to carry it out with due regard to the internal position of the country and to its relation with the countries of the world. The Government will not adopt free trade, which will be a disappointment to the Liberal leader who has made free trade the darling of his heart. The Government cannot adopt free trade because of the requirements of the revenue. We have to raise $28,000,000 exclusive of savings, and the gentlemen opposite are invited to show how that can be raised without customs taxation. On account of the industries and general development of the country we cannot have free trade. We

MUST HAVE PROTECTION.

The N. P. has kept population in the country that otherwise would have left it. (Cheers and laughter.) We must strive to be a manufacturing country as well as an agricultural community. The policy of the present Government is clear. Will Mr. Laurier define his position equally as well? Mr. Foster then took up unrestricted reciprocity, and said it could not be adopted by him, as it would destroy the separate life and autonomy of the Dominion. But if anything like honorable reciprocity can be obtained, the Government stand committed to take it, but it must get it with honor. Another idea was preferential trade. The idea of his friend Mr. McNeil could not be scouted even if its attainments were years in the future.

Mr. Devlin—That is taffy for McNeill.

Mr. Foster said he was not going to allege that it was a present possibility, but it is well for Canada and well for every British colony to hold a strong vantage position for its possible adoption. Much talk there has been about

THE OLD FLAG AND THE OLD POLICY,

but the Government means to keep the old landmarks that were set up in 1878. But gentlemen opposite said the United States are to have free trade in a few months. How did they attain that position? By the road of protection—not always reasonable—but which it put on and kept on until it developed its resources. The National Policy is wider than the tariff. The Government proposes to maintain it, and does not mean to abandon the principles of fair and reasonable protection. The Government has been investigating and will continue to investigate during the present year. It will discover what changes require to be made, and if any section suffers through too much protection the trouble will be remedied. It will become a question whether hothouse protection shall be abandoned. The Government will consider whether all raw material shall not come in free, consistent with the revenue of the country, and thus we will have a lessened scale of protection. During the year the Government will investigate, personally inspect and listen to all complaints regarding the numerous industries in the country.

SOME OTHER TIME.

At the next session of Parliament the Government proposes to bring down a tariff revised on these lines, which shall not ruthlessly destroy and injure the industries, but which shall give them a measure of protection unless they are a burden upon the people. Certain things pressed on the Government call for an immediate remedy. A strong plea has been made in favor of an export duty on logs. There is much waste, and an entirely unnecessary drain is being made upon our timber resources. It is a most difficult question. The Government will gather information regarding it and submit its decision to the House at the next session. As to coal oil, it is also a very difficult question. (Laughter.) To do justice to an industry that has been from 1862 a pet of every Government; that enjoyed caressing from the Government before 1873; that received the kindly pats of the Government of 1873-79, and had the continued favor of the Government from 1880 to the present time, is no small task. The oil industry is largely local and it deserves encouragement.

REDUCTION OF THE COAL OIL TAX.

But the Government has resolved to make a change. The duty is 7 1-5 cents per imperial gallon, exactly equal to 6 cents per wine gallon; but there have been certain conditions as to trade and transportation which protects the industry to a large extent—2 or 3 cents a gallon. Oil cannot be imported now except in certain vessels. The transportation regulations will be repealed and the abnormal protection will be taken away. At the same time large and, Mr. Foster hoped, sufficient protection will be left in order to preserve it, for the present at least.

CUT IN THE BINDER TWINE DUTY.

The duty on binder twine has been complained of by sections of the farming classes. The duty in the United States has been reduced to 7-10 of 1 cent per pound. The protection in this country is 25 per cent. It is not the intention to take away the entire duty on binder twine, but it is proposed to reduce the duty from 25 to 12½ per cent.

Mining machinery will be admitted free of duty for three years longer. Next year the Government will take the matter up and may place it upon a different and better basis. Mr. Foster was cheered by his friends as he took his seat, after having spoken for two and a half hours.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT REPLIES.

After recess Sir Richard Cartwright replied to Minister Foster, being loudly cheered on rising. He began by congratulating Mr. Foster upon his changed tone. There was no longer that braggadocio about the "glorious results" of the high tariff policy, and the Opposition were no longer called upon to fall down and worship that policy on the ground that the people were in love with it. Perhaps the Finance Minister had heard the president of the Young Conservatives in Toronto declaring that Canadians were being annexed in job lots, and had also found the man who was once described as the brains of the party denouncing the holy tariff and even blaspheming the sacred gerrymander itself. (Cheers.) It appeared that the Finance Minister was willing to follow the example of the Vicar of Bray and worship any power that would keep him in office, but was not quite sure whether the tariff reformers or the protectionists were the strongest. Mr. Foster had commenced his career as a professional philanthropist, but Sir John Macdonald once said that such persons soon became in need of extensive moral repairs. (Laughter.) All virtue seemed to have gone out of the National Policy as well as out of its author. If the country was prosperous people would come to it and stay in it instead of leaving it. The fact that the movement of the population was

OUT FROM THE DOMINION

instead of into it was a better test of the country's condition than all the arguments founded upon quibbles and percentages that the Finance Minister could conjure up.

THE EXODUS DOUBLED.

The exodus under Tory rule, as the census returns showed, was more than double what it was under the Mackenzie regime. He contrasted the promises made by the Tories in 1878 with the apologies and confessions of failure made by the high taxation advocates to-day. Mr. Tupper had told Parliament that the Government which could only make the country prosperous when other countries were prosperous was no good. They were going to increase the price of cereals, stop the exodus, obtain reciprocity, make every section of the country boom and populate the Northwest. Millions had been exacted from the people, but all these promises remained unfulfilled. If, as Mr. Foster contended, Canadian manufacturers were able to produce their wares as cheaply as those of other countries, what did they want of tariff protection? (Cheers.)

A LARGER MARKET WANTED.

What they required was a larger market. The improvements which the Tories were claiming credit for were the result of scientific improvements, reducing the cost of production. All that the tariff did was to prevent farmers and fishermen from obtaining the full benefit of such improvements. Savings bank deposits simply represented money borrowed by the Government and wasted upon political railways and other unproductive works. Bank deposits representing discounts and evidences of debt were not evidences of wealth. Increasing deposits in the savings banks did not affect the decline in value of agricultural lands in Ontario. In view of the character of the immigration into Canada during recent years, he doubted the wisdom of spending public money upon foreign immigration. Far better it would be to make an effort to

KEEP OUR OWN PEOPLE AT HOME.

While the Government boasted of the increase of factory hands employed in Canada, during the past ten years that increase was but 1 per cent. greater than that which took place during the preceding decade under a revenue tariff. This was the miserable result produced by a policy which robbed farmers of millions for the benefit of monopolists. The policy of the Government announced to-day was simply to fling a very small tub to the tariff reform whale. (Cheers.) The Government did not know what to do. They boasted about the results of their policy and yet they proposed to take a whole year to find out its effects. They proposed to keep the whole business of the country unsettled and in a disturbed condition for a whole year. Two Cabinet Ministers and two "prentice boys" were to perambulate the country and find out what was wanted. (Cheers.) Ministers were utterly ignorant of the situation, and

CONFESSED THEIR IGNORANCE.

They did not know what to do about saw logs, or anything else, and put forward a pretext for delay which would prevent the investment of any capital in new business during the coming year. Mr. Foster prided himself upon imposing duties upon farm products, whereas those very duties had provoked the McKinley tariff. (Cheers.) Mr. Foster had asked Mr. Laurier for a policy, just as he had asked Mr. Blaine for a policy when in Washington. (Applause.) Mr. Laurier would prescribe a policy when properly called on. The exports and imports were

ELEVEN DOLLARS LESS PER HEAD

of population than they were twenty years ago. The Canadian people were compelled to pay about $7,000,000 in taxes upon sugar and cottons, but only a little over $1,000,-000 went into the public treasury, and the balance into the pockets of the monopolists; About the only item in last year's exports which should be credited to the National Policy was over $1,000,000 worth of emigrants' effects. The policy of the Liberal party was to destroy the villainous protective policy and to

EMANCIPATE THE CANADIAN PEOPLE

from the condition of slavery into which a few knaves and selfish monopolists had placed them. (Cheers.) It had been admitted by the First Minister that Canada could have reciprocity by asking for it, but Mr. Colby had blurted out the truth when he said his party was opposed to reciprocity even in natural products. He denounced the policy of misrepresentation, blustering and cringing towards the United States which the present Government had followed. Canada could not progress while her products were excluded from the markets of this continent. If reciprocity could not be obtained the burdens of taxation imposed upon the country could be lessened. The present tariff was

VICIOUS IN THE EXTREME.

It robbed the people for the benefit of the combines. It made it the interest of capitalists to corrupt Parliament for their own benefit. The whole system of specific duties was bad, because it discriminated against the poorer class of the community. He denounced the course of the Ministry in adding to the expenses of the Government by creating new offices, and closed by moving the following amendment:

"That the present customs bear heavily and unjustly upon the great consuming classes of Canada, and should be at once thoroughly reformed in the direction of freer trade, and that the collection of taxes ought to be limited to the necessities of government efficiently and economically administered." (Loud cheers.)

On motion of Mr. Haggart the debate was adjourned.

At the request of Mr. Thompson it was agreed that the budget debate should be continued day by day until concluded. The House then adjourned.

Notes.

Hon. David Mills was in his seat in the House to-day.

A bill to incorporate the Woodmen of the World was introduced by Mr. Marshall (East Middlesex) to-day.

Sir John Thompson slept, yea nodded, during the greater portion of Finance Minister Foster's speech.

Among those invited to Mr. Speaker's dinner to-night were Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Laurier and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall.

Dr. Kelly, of Brantford, was in the city to-day attending the funeral of Mr. McDonald, formerly G. W. R. contractor.

Lieut.-Col. Scott, of Kincardine, is in the city to interview the Minister of Public Works in reference to needed habor improvements in Kincardine.

In regard to coal oil all restrictions on importation are removed, except the duty of 7 1-5 per cent.—that is oil can be brought in in tanks instead of barrels.

Mr. Tarte has already placed on the notice paper a query regarding the McGreevy and Murphy trial, and the commutation of McGreevy's sentence.

Sir John Thompson's criminal code of 1892, which does not go into force till next July, is catching it on many sides, and to-night Sir John has brought in a bill to amend it.

On the motion of Dr. Sproule it was resolved to-day by the House that the committee on agriculture be empowered to take evidence under oath in regard to the scheduling of Canadian cattle in the British markets.

TROUBLE IN KANSAS

Between Republicans and Populists—Possibility of Bloodshed.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 14.—War is on in real earnest between the two Houses of the Legislature, and blows have been exchanged. An attempt by the deputy sergeant-at-arms of the Republican House to arrest Ben. C. Rich, of the Populist House on orders from the Republicans caused a conflict, during which two Republicans were knocked down and several men on both sides were badly bruised by blows of fists.

The Republicans are determined to arrest Rich and the Populists say they never will submit to it. Both Speakers have sworn in 100 extra sergeants-at-arms to-night, and they are all armed. It is believed that the Populists will bar the doors of Representative Hall against the Republicans to-morrow morning, and the Republicans say that if they do they will batter down the doors.

Cleveland's Cabinet.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., Feb. 14.—Mr. Cleveland officially announced the names of four members of his Cabinet this evening. They are Walter Q. Gresham, of Illinois, Secretary of State; John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, Secretary of the Treasury; Daniel S. Lamont, of New York, Secretary of War; Wilson S. Bissell, of Buffalo, Postmaster-General.

The Canadian Cattle Embargo.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Lord Aberdeen to-day introduced a deputation of 80 representatives of the public bodies of Forfarshire, Dundee, Aberdeen and Perth, to Hon. Mr. Gardner, president of the Board of Agriculture, to urge the removal of the restrictions of the Canadian cattle. Mr. Gardner said that whether the disease found among the Canadian cattle landed at Dundee last year was "corn stalk" pleuro, or the other pneumonia, it was certainly contagious, and he was therefore compelled by law to apply the schedule; and moreover, he could not remove the schedule till satisfied that Canada was free from the disease. He hoped the decision would not be much longer delayed, but he would await further advice and also the action of the Canadian Government regarding the imports of cattle from the United States.

The Associated Chambers of Agriculture have adopted a resolution pointing out the necessity of continuing the inhibition of the import of Canadian cattle.

The Battle Begun.

Balfour Opens Fire on the Home Rule Bill.

Hon. Edward Blake's Popularity in England Increasing.

Hon. A. Stanley Slightly Better, but Still Very Ill—Minister Dibbs Dind't Suit the Earl of Jersey—January an Unlucky Month for Belgium's Royal Family.

Ferdinand and Marie Betrothed.

SOFIA, Feb. 14.—The betrothal of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria and the Princess Marie Louise, daughter of the Duke of Parma, is announced officially.

Hon. Arthur Stanley Better.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The doctor in attendance reports that Hon. Arthur Stanley is a little better to-day. His condition is still very serious and he is unconscious and delirious.

Canadian Apples in England.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Canadian apples arriving last week were of excellent quality and condition. Prices were 1s to 1s 6d higher, closing strong. The market was completely cleared. Supplies, in fact, are still short of the demand for good fruit.

More Seismic Shakings.

ATHENS, Feb. 14.—The Island of Samothreki, in the Ægean Sea, was shaken by an earthquake to-day. All the buildings on the island were destroyed. Many lives were lost. The ironclad Phara will take provisions to the island within three days. Several severe shocks were felt in Zante last night and this morning.

Why It Was.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The sudden and unexpected resignation by the Earl of Jersey of his lucrative Governorship of New South Wales is attributed to the offensive behavior of his Prime Minister, Sir George Dibbs, who attracted so much attention when in this country by anathematizing everything connected with America. Sir George Dibbs, it has been stated more than once before, is one of the rather numerous statesmen of the present day who has spent some time in the interior of a penitentiary. It was while in the latter that he acquired the art of wood carving, in which he excels, and one of his first acts on becoming Prime Minister of New South Wales was to appoint the warden who had special charge of him while in jail to the governorship of the prison where he had been incarcerated. Lord Jersey is not only a great land owner, but also the principal partner of the famous old Childs' Bank in London.

Debate on the Home Rule Bill.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—In the House of Commons to-day the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Conservative leader, arose amid loud Unionist cheers and began his reply to Mr. Gladstone's speech of last evening. He said: The House, first of all, has the right to inquire why is any bill, good or bad, required? By universal admission, said Mr. Balfour, there are two causes of trouble in Ireland: one, the agrarian condition of the country; the other the fact that it is possible owing to the unhappy history of the land question for persons with a political object to serve to arouse criminal agitation throughout Ireland. I do not care which of these alternatives is chosen. Whichever is chosen it does not point to the necessity of home rule, but rather to the impossibility of its adoption. By what right, he asked, were they to proceed to cut off Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom because a majority from an arbitrarily selected area wanted home rule? When Protestant Ulster with an absolutely unanimous voice declared against the measure with aversion and abhorrence, then majorities ought not to count; they became mere ebullitions of feeling. Ulster, at least, deserved exceptional treatment for which no provision appeared in the bill now placed before the House. He proceeded to discuss the proposals of the bill in detail contending that the plan outlined for dealing with the civil servants of the Government would certainly lead to the infliction of great hardships. The plan of creating three constituencies of different forms in Ireland, sending members to the Irish Assembly, to the Imperial Parliament and to an Irish second chamber, would plunge affairs into a condition of hopeless entanglement. He did not think the proposal for a second chamber would stand the fire of free Parliamentary criticism. As to the exercise of the veto power by the Imperial Parliament, Mr. Balfour held that such a provision would lead to a legislative deadlock in either the English or the Irish Parliament. It was idle for Mr. Gladstone to talk to them of the analogies of colonial legislatures. The question now under discussion could not be argued as if Ireland in any respect resembled a colony. It had been said from the Irish benches that there would be imperial supremacy on the understanding that an honorable bargain was entered into between the Imperial Government and an Irish Parliament. Such a supremacy would never be exercised. (Laughter.) Speaking for those honorable members who agreed with him in political matters, Mr. Balfour declared no such bargain was possible or would be made. To the question why the Liberals had done no better than produce such a bill, the reply was because they have attempted an almost impossible task. A federal government or a colonial government may be good; the British constitution as it stands may be good, but this bastard combination of three is ludicrous and impossible. Ireland, said Mr. Balfour, is in the process of being united to Great Britain more closely in the bond of common national affection than ever before. The land agitation began in 1889 under the guidance of an able politician who postponed, perhaps for a generation, perhaps even longer, the full consummation of our wishes. Although great harm was thus done, although our children and grandchildren will still feel the effect of revolution in Ireland and betrayal in England, still I think the country and the House have the power to say now: This process shall go no further. They will at all events now put an end to this project, absolutely impossible of execution in its details and even worse in its general principles, by which the Prime Minister, under the cloak and guise of drawing together in closer harmony the different parts of the United Kingdom, intends to found institutions which must tend ever and ever as time goes on to separate in temper, in mind, and ultimately in nationality. (Unionist cheers.)

Prof. Bryce, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, replying to Mr. Balfour, said that it was not by representing Ireland in the most odious possible light and by inflaming prejudices that national unity could be created. Mr. Balfour had described the measure before the House as placing Ireland on a lower level than a colony, while at the same time he had magnified the importance of the concessions made in the bill. One part of the right honorable gentleman's speech had been made to contradict the other. Mr. Bryce concluded by observing that in his opinion it was a practical scheme, possessing the elements of stability and appealing to the better and higher side of human nature.

John Redmond (Parnellite) said that while in sympathy with the broad principles of the bill he found in it grave blots, and felt it was imperative to press for the amendment of many of its provisions. He regretted that the right honorable member for East Manchester (Balfour), had descended to the threats that when the Conservatives should come into power they would exercise the veto power.

Mr. Balfour protested that he had made no such threat.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Wm. O'Brien, M. P. for Cork city, said this morning in an interview regarding the Home Rule Bill: "Our chief reservation is on the financial question. The main lines of the bill are a noble and sufficient settlement of the national claims. We are able to heartily recommend Irish acceptance of the measure. It gives substantial control over our domestic affairs."

John Burns, the labor member for Battersea, said he was greatly pleased with the bill, although from a democratic point of view, it was not an ideal measure. Mr. Burns added that notwithstanding objections to some clauses he would certainly support the measure.

Hon. E. Blake's Popularity.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Mr. Blake was much pleased with the hearty welcome given him when speaking at Walsall, Pontefract, last week. He will speak to-morrow at Cambridge University Liberal Club, Wednesday week at Peckham, on Saturday week at Hull, and on March 1 at Hampstead. Many other requests for addresses from him continue to be made, but Mr. Blake has deferred other fixtures, being anxious to avoid an over-strain.

Pointing Poleward.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Frederick Jackson, F.R.G.S., who is preparing to make an Arctic expedition, will leave next summer with a party of eleven. He will establish a depot on the southern coast of Franz Josef Land, and from this depot as a basis of operations will explore northward the rest of the summer. He will return to the depot before winter, and a year from next spring will go northward again, establishing along his route a series of depots until he reaches latitude 84° or 85°, where he and his party will winter.

An Unlucky Month.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 14.—January is certainly a most unlucky month for the royal family at Belgium. It was in January that the only son of King Leopold died, and the same month witnessed the mysterious tragedy in which his son-in-law, Crown Prince Rudolph, lost his life at Meyerling. In January, too, Prince Baldwin, son of the Count of Flanders and nephew and heir to King Leopold, died two years ago, and one of the sisters of Prince Baldwin likewise passed away in January.

It was in January that the King's favorite palace of Laeken was burned to the ground, destroying an immense amount of historical relics, souvenirs and archives and treasures of every sort, and January of the present year has been signalized by the burglary of the Count of Flanders' palace, the robbers carrying off most of the jewels of the King's kind-hearted and good-looking sister-in-law.

So thoroughly has the royal family of Belgium come to look upon January as a month particularly fatal to their house that they never make any plans or projects for the first month in the year, which they invariably await with fear and trembling, never knowing what sorrow it is going to bring them.