

cluded in the terms of the resolution, no one, so far as we can discover, seemed to have any expectation that such an arrangement could become possible in the near future. Mr. Foster himself relegated it to that dim and distant time when Great Britain shall have forsaken her free-trade policy and put duties upon the products of foreign countries. It is true that at a later period in the Conference Mr. Foster moved and supported a resolution declaring "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 within the Empire may be placed on a more favourable footing than that which is carried on with foreign countries."

But this resolution, which was evidently disapproved though not, of course, directly opposed, by Lord Jersey, in an address in which he called attention to the effect that such a change would have upon the more than seventy-six per cent. of Great Britain's trade which is carried on with foreign countries, was strongly opposed by several members of the Conference, and was carried, on division, only by a majority of five to three, the delegates voting by colonies, as follows:

Yeas—Canada, Tasmania, Cape of Good Hope, South Australia, Victoria—5.

Nays—New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland—3.

Under such circumstances it might be questioned, though the question was not, we believe, raised in the discussion, whether the inclusion of Great Britain in the resolution may not be harmful rather than helpful to the obtaining of the concession asked for on behalf of the colonies as amongst themselves.

A rather interesting phase of the discussion was developed in connection with the exception taken by Hon. Mr. Playford (South Australia) to the admission of French wines under the new treaty into Canada at lower rates of duty than those granted to Australians and other fellow-colonists. Hon. Mr. Foster, in his explanation, removed the misapprehension that Canada had by the treaty pledged herself to give better rates to France than to the colonies, or had put it out of her power to give to her sister colonies or other countries equally favourable terms. But, in intimating that this would be done only in return for some equivalent, he was obliged to take the ground that such a matter must be dealt with as a purely business transaction, and that the sisterly or cousinly relation of the colonies would have no effect in facilitating it. Nor could he obviate the further objection that by the treaty Canada has put herself, for the present at least, in the position of admitting certain products of France at lower rates of duty than those imposed upon similar products of Australia or other colonies, or the further objection that she has also put it out of her power, under the treaty, to give preferential

treatment to her sister colonies in regard to products included in the treaty. It seems pretty clear, therefore, that the abrogation of the treaty with France must precede the ratification of any preferential treaty with, e. g., South Australia.

The discussion of the Pacific Cable resolution served to show, on the one hand, the great usefulness, if not absolute necessity, of such a cable to the successful carrying out of any scheme for materially increasing trade and intercourse between the antipodean colonies, and on the other, the plentiful lack of the data necessary to any intelligent action looking to the immediate or early construction of such a cable. Two important resolutions were passed:

First. "That, in the opinion of this Conference, immediate steps should be taken to provide telegraphic communications by cable, free from foreign control, between the Dominion of Canada and Australasia."

Second. "That the Imperial Government be requested to undertake at the earliest possible moment, and to prosecute with all possible speed, a thorough survey of the proposed cable route between Canada and Australia; the expense to be borne in equal proportion by Great Britain, Canada and the Australasian colonies."

Considerable stress was laid by one or two of the delegates, in the course of this discussion, upon the importance of such a cable to the safety of the Empire, as a means of preserving communication with the Mother Country in case of war. Lord Jersey, however, in his very cool-headed and business-like way, suggested that the question of strategy might be left to the military and naval authorities of the Empire. He, too, tempered the enthusiasm of those delegates who were anxious to have the Conference pledge itself to some action looking to the immediate commencement of the work of construction, by pointing out the impossibility of taking any such action, pending the determination of route and approximate cost by surveys. He further very naturally desired to have some definite information for his Government touching the extent to which the delegates were prepared to pledge their respective Governments to share in the cost of laying the cable, saying that it would seem not unlikely that the Imperial Government, before undertaking the survey, would wish to know whether there was something to be done after the survey was made. Probably the offer of the delegates, embodied in the subsequent resolution, to pay two-thirds of the cost of survey may have been thought sufficient guarantee of the determination of the Colonies to go on with the work. In the same sensible, business-like spirit, Lord Jersey, at another stage of the debate, desired to be furnished with facts throwing some light upon the nature and extent of the intercolonial trade likely to be developed by means of the proposed preferential trade arrangements, which the colonies were asking permission to make amongst themselves. The

answer to this reasonable request seems to have been to some extent furnished in the course of an informal discussion which took place at the last session of the Conference. We quote from the summary published in the *Globe*:

"Mr. Suttor enumerated as the articles which Australia would have to sell Canada, wool, which is produced in immense quantities; frozen beef and mutton, which can be got in Sydney for two cents a pound, and which cost 12 and 14 cents a pound in British Columbia; canned meats, raw hides and skins, including kangaroo and rabbit skins; hard woods for railway ties and street paving; fruits, such as lemons, oranges and mandarins, butter and sugar. Among the things which could be taken from Canada would be paper, on which there is no duty in his colony, and which is not made in Australia; cotton goods, which are free in New South Wales, and frozen and canned salmon. Mr. Lee Smith urged that the Canadian tariff be altered so as to give cross-bred wools the same advantages as merino, and stated that the Massey-Harris Company having shipped 4,000 cultivators from Toronto to New Zealand, New Zealand should sell Canada woollen goods, and he asked for treatment that would place her in a better position than those of France and Germany. In addition, New Zealand could sell superior gum and flax, that makes excellent binder twine; basils' skins which he asked to be put on the free list, and rabbit skins. New Zealand could purchase frozen salmon, hops and paper. Other articles mentioned which could be bought from Canada were rough timber, matches and petroleum; while among the articles which it was hoped might be exported to Canada were wine, copper, tin, silver, beche-de-mer and tobacco. Sir Henry de Villiers said that the Cape could offer wool, diamonds, wine and fruit, while it could take lumber, which will be wanted in future in large quantities in the mines; agricultural implements and paper. The discussion closed with speeches by Mr. Foster and Mr. Bowell. Mr. Foster was inclined to think that some trade could be done in butter in British Columbia, and also in mutton, while in fruit there were great possibilities; and Canada could also buy sugar, and possibly wools, while he thought she could sell lumber, canned and frozen fish, paper, paints and cotton. Australian tobacco seemed to be unsuitable. Mr. Bowell spoke in favor more expressly of the fruit trade."

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CANADIAN LITERATURE.

CHAPTER I. (Continued).

The *Canadian Brothers*, or the *Prophecy Fulfilled*, is the sequel to *Wacousta*. To those who delight in curiosities it may be interesting to know that the editor of the *Literary Garland* (Vol. I) speaks of an unpublished manuscript novel by the talented Major Richardson as being a fitting conclusion to *Wacousta*. In the March number, 1839 (Vol. I), there appears a chapter entitled "Jeremiah Desborough," and in the April number of the same year still another chapter, this time under the title, "The Settler, or the Prophecy Fulfilled." Evidently the author was at a loss what name to give the work, which may have caused him to publish it under the later name, "Matilda Montgomerie."

The principal characters are the Canadian brothers, Gerald and Henry Grantham,