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LONDON, MONDAY, JULY 31.

THE SUMMONS.

A premature general election has been forced on the country by the abuse of the power reserved to an Opposition by our easy-going parliamentary rules and practice.

The Government had no alternative except the unthinkable one of surrender on the reciprocity issue. It has had no fear of an appeal to the people, but it has been reluctant to inflict injustice on the newer parts of Canada. They are now grievously under-represented in the House of Commons, and, by the decree of the Opposition, must remain so in the next Parliament. The census returns, the basis of the next redistribution, will not be completed till October. Even if a redistribution bill could be introduced immediately afterwards, there is not the faintest prospect that it would be allowed to pass by the Opposition so as to permit a winter campaign before the end of the session. The last redistribution, a scrupulously fair one, was held up for months. The Opposition will have a double reckoning with the western provinces, having denied them two favors which they want, and want at once—reciprocity and redistribution.

The country is already familiar with the arguments by which the Opposition seeks to justify its conduct. It is said the Government has no mandate for the reciprocity pact. This plea is not even an ingenious humbug. The free exchange of farm products with the United States has been a Liberal plank ever since there has been a Conservative party. If we choose to date the birth of the party from the ascendancy of Sir John Macdonald, in the fifties, Sir John even made free trade in natural products a standing offer in his first National Policy budget. The offer was renewed from time to time, and held good in the last year of the Conservative regime. As a matter of fact, no Canadian politician dreamed that the United States would respond to such an offer until the terms of the Taft-Fielding pact were made known six months ago. The no-mandate cry is answered by the whole history of tariff legislation in Canada, and the record of both parties.

When the Taft-Fielding pact was announced there was an exclamation of surprise, a general feeling that it was "too good to be true," shared by all parties. The enemies of the Government made no pretence at the time of denying its material benefits. Quite the contrary, they protested that its advantages were so great as to constitute a peril to Canadian nationality. The farmers of Canada, having tasted of the forbidden fruit of the American market, would be seduced from their British allegiance. The currents of inter-provincial and inter-imperial trade, flowing east and west, would be turned to the south, and the great transportation systems, the ties of steel binding the provinces together, broken and severed. This was the whole burden of the anti-reciprocity chorus for weeks and months. An appeal was made to the working classes in the cities and towns to oppose legislation which they were told would increase the cost of living for the profit of the tillers of the soil, already bloated with prosperity.

When it was found that these tactics were solidifying the farmers for the pact in all parts of the country, there was a sudden change of tune. The alarm was sounded and now desperate efforts are being put forth to "dam the flowing tide" of pro-reciprocity sentiment in the townships. There has been a change of strategy and literature, solemnly assuring the farmers that reciprocity means merely an increase in competition, and, therefore, a lower range of prices. The working-men who were to be pinched by higher prices are neglected for the time being. The arguments addressed to the farmers are as insincere and preposterous as they are belated.

The Government goes into this election with a clear-cut policy. Can anyone say the same of the Opposition? Mr. Borden's supporters in the House from the prairie provinces, with two or three exceptions, denounce the reciprocity agreement because it makes no

deep or wide cut in the duties on manufactured articles. In the East there are Conservative candidates, like the member for London, crying for an all-round increase in the tariff. Mr. Borden himself refuses to express an opinion on the general tariff question, having devolved all responsibility on an imaginary tariff commission, improvised as a means of evading direct answers to troublesome inquiries in the West. The position of the Opposition is neither candid nor consistent. United on no principle or policy, it deserves to fail, and can scarcely hope to win. It is probable that Mr. Borden has been shoved into this extreme course against his judgment by the arrogant and affluent Toronto-Montreal junta, which is supplying the sinews of war—and insisting on the war.

A DIFFICULT SEARCH.

The Advertiser the other day asked for the names of half-a-dozen prominent Liberals, outside of Toronto, opposed to reciprocity. The London Free Press responds with: Clifford Sifton, M. P., W. M. German, M. P., W. O. Sealey, M. P., Hon. G. W. Ross, and D. C. Cameron, the new Lieutenant-governor of Manitoba.

Hon. G. W. Ross' postoffice address is No. 3 Elmlynn Place, Toronto. Moreover, Mr. Ross has not uttered a word against the reciprocity agreement. Before the negotiations at Washington began, he wrote a series of letters arguing against a trade "treaty" with the United States. The present arrangement is not a treaty; it is merely concurrent legislation which may be terminated at any moment by either country. It does not come within the scope of Mr. Ross' articles, and he has as yet found no fault with it.

Mr. Sealey, the Liberal member for Wentworth, protested against the fruit and vegetable clauses of the agreement, but he supported the other features and would not have voted against the measure had it come to a division in the House.

Mr. German says the agreement will not injure the fruit growers, but he is against it for reasons not apparent in his speeches. Messrs. Sifton and Mr. Mullen are also opposed. We take our contemporary's word for it that Mr. Cameron is in the same boat. This reduces the list of "antis" to four. With the aid of a search warrant and a telescope of high magnifying power, our contemporary may discover two more. Who are they?

The Opposition's tariff policy is entirely a matter of latitude.

Once more: Can anyone name half-a-dozen prominent Liberals, outside of Toronto, opposed to reciprocity?

The Canadian cruiser Niobe struck a shoal off Cape Sable. Another excuse for the little Canadians to sneer at the Canadian navy.

It is to be hoped our "steamed" contemporaries will not warm up unnecessarily over election matters until the hot weather is over.

Mr. Borden, in his manifesto, falls to tell the country why he is the only Conservative leader ever opposed to reciprocity in farm products.

Australia adopts the same naval law as Canada. But no party in Australia is so unapologetic as to stigmatize Australia's navy as "separatist" or "tinpot."

Mr. Bourassa will make his fight against the Government on the naval bill, and will say exactly the opposite of what the Government's enemies in Ontario will say.

Hon. Mr. Sifton will not offer for re-election. No man has done more for the West, but it is doubtful whether he could find a seat there, owing to his anti-reciprocity views.

Parliament will reassemble on Oct. 11, so as to enable the Government to put through the reciprocity pact, and give the farmers the benefit of the American market for this year's harvest.

Premier McBride has been offered a federal nomination. Mr. McBride is believed to be ambitious. This is the best reason for thinking he will not enter the federal arena at this juncture.

The progressive Republicans and the Democrats in Congress combined in the United States to pass reciprocity. There has been no such phenomenon at Ottawa, but there will be at the polls.

The London Spectator remarks that reciprocity is not a new policy in Canada. Its present opponents speak and act as though a measure supported by Sir John Macdonald all his life was a sudden invention of the Laurier Government.

The Conservative Ottawa Citizen says: "Miss Canada is not worrying at all for anybody to save her from the alleged ogre, Reciprocity. In fact she is not sure that he is an ogre at all; but she would like somebody to save her from the white-plumed knight and the band of political bandits and ruffians that follow in his train."

The Citizen will not be alone in its party in running away from the reciprocity issue.

Mr. Perley, the Opposition whip, and a millionaire, will make \$25,000 a year more under the pulp and paper clauses of the reciprocity agreement, according to the Toronto News correspondent. Mr. Perley is praised for his unselfishness in opposing reciprocity.

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King Has Hands Full.

From the beginning of September King George will have his hands full preparing for his long trip to India, and all the details of his coronation at Delhi will be committed to him by the Durbar with all its festivals and splendor will cost far more than the one just celebrated at Westminster, and the people of India will feel the burden of it for many years.

King George will be the first English sovereign to be hailed in India with the title of Delhi-i-Ishah, and, like Napoleon the Great, he will perform the act of crowning himself to impress it upon the minds of the natives of India that no living person is more powerful than he. He will be crowned in the city of Delhi, and the ceremony will be a magnificent one.

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The Durbar takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 12, and will be witnessed by at least 50,000 people. The Durbar is an overwhelmingly splendid, even to the Indian mind, which expects a great deal. There is to be, another day, a review of 50,000 troops. The Indian service troops are to be under the command of their respective chiefs.

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Together they went to a roof garden, and the affable gentleman, an exceedingly enjoyable evening, his only regret being that his friend absolutely refused to let him pay for a thing. Mollman, he said, came out boldly and stated that he was strong in the law, and himself. The stranger was interested. He asked for details, and when he found that the "fellow" was in Canadian money here, he declared that it was unfortunate.

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The manager joined the party and a few minutes later Mollman handed over his \$1,200 to the "hotelman," who left, saying he wished to get his cashier's advice. He didn't return.

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