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THE OPPOSITION JUGGLERS.

Though no one appears to be in a position to state with any approach toward definiteness whether there is to be a federal election before next year, the reports of political meetings are beginning to thicken and we may surmise that both parties are making ready for the inevitable contest. Last week a Federal Minister held meetings in Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver, and at Esquimalt and Vancouver was immediately followed by Conservative retentions. In Esquimalt George Henry Barnard, M. P., and William Blakemore, not M. P., were the speakers, while Mr. John Jardine, recently read out of the Liberal party, added the dignity and influence of his persuasive presence upon the platform. At Vancouver Messrs. Goodeve of Rossland and Cowan of Vancouver, both federal members, were the orators.

The addresses delivered at Esquimalt as reported in the local organ of the Conservative party were both negligible. They consisted of parrot-like repetitions of the hackneyed phrases of which the whole country has long since sickened, and there was no fresh genius brought into play in the endeavor to enlighten the audience on the political issue of the day. At Vancouver, however, the two principal speakers did introduce matter which, had it been accurate and in accordance with fact, might have properly evoked some antagonism to reciprocity. It seems to be a foregone conclusion that the rickety platform upon which Mr. Borden has taken his stand is the unstable and wobbly structure upon which his followers from ocean to ocean must plant their artillery in opening their noisy fusillade against reciprocity. Flag-waving—an old Tory trick both in England and Canada—is the last resort of these campaigners. They have forgotten that the flag means something only when it has the guns, the men and the ammunition to make good.

Both Mr. Goodeve's and Mr. Cowan's addresses were punctuated with misrepresentation to such an extent that there is no wonder in them and their juggling with facts and figures is characteristic always of those who find that they must deceive in order to present a case that can be tolerated even by an uninformed audience. We refer to these particularly because they were by local politicians—the flowers of the British Columbia flock—and are yet of exactly the same material as the whole cloth out of which Mr. Borden manufactures his arguments.

Mr. Goodeve referred to the question of the immigration of Japanese and rehearsed Mr. Cowan's argument, which was exploded on the floor of the House of Commons, that we have placed the control of Japanese immigration in the hands of the Japanese government. It was shown in the House that the agreement with the government of Japan, which has been so satisfactory in its working during the past four years, is of exactly the same nature as that in force between the government of Japan and the United States, in which country it works equally to the satisfaction of both parties. Mr. Cowan was completely silenced in the House of Commons in his debate on this question, yet without scruple Mr. Goodeve repeats his misrepresentations on the platform at Vancouver. Such tactics, while they may temporarily deceive an unintelligent audience, must react upon the deceivers and, under the admirable results of the agreement with Japan respecting immigration, it will be difficult for a sophist to arouse public interest. This must be especially so when it is known that more Japanese have left Canada during the last two years than have come into the country.

Mr. Goodeve thought he had a good argument when he cited the trade reports showing the commerce between Canada and the United States. His remarks are thus reported in the Vancouver Tory organ:

"He said that one of the great arguments used in favor of reciprocity was that it would open to the people of Canada a market of 90,000,000 people to the south. But was it not a fact that last year we had bought from this nation goods to the value of \$228,000,000, and they had bought from us \$112,000,000, or just about half? Last year 80 per cent. of our exports went to the Mother Country, and to the United States only nine per cent."

All this must have sounded very conclusive, but the trouble with it is that it is not fair. Taking Mr. Goodeve's own figures, they show that Canada sold to the United States last year \$16 worth of products for every man, woman and child in this country, while the United States sold to Canada \$2.41 worth of products for every man, woman and child in the republic. That is to say, in the matter of exchange of products between the countries, man

for man, the United States populace sold Canada less than one-seventh of the amount she bought from us. It is true that we have a population of 7,000,000 people purchasing nearly twice as much from our neighbor as we sell to him, but if the population of Canada were as large as that of the United States and we were selling to Uncle Sam as much per capita as we do to-day our exports to the United States would reach the magnificent total of \$1,455,000,000, or about six and one-half times as much as we buy from the United States to-day. Mr. Goodeve wants 7,000,000 people to sell as much to 90,000,000 people as 90,000,000 would sell to the same number before he thinks we can get a square deal.

The only reason why the seven millions of people do not sell more to the thirty millions of people is because the latter have now a high tariff wall over which the Canadian producer must climb before he can enter the United States market. This wall is, and has been since 1866, much higher than the wall Canada has raised against the United States, and what is proposed under reciprocity is to take down both walls and let natural products enter either market according to the natural law of supply and demand.

Mr. Goodeve says that 80 per cent. of our exports went to Britain last year. That is true, but as the principal export to Britain is wheat, and as the price of wheat is fixed by Liverpool, reciprocity can in no way affect our wheat exports excepting to give us a wider market near at home, which will be altogether to our advantage. Just now we have to tax ourselves 25 cents per bushel to put our wheat into the United States mills and we have to accept that much less for it when we offer it for sale. Besides, Great Britain is a free trade country and the reason we make such preponderating exports to the United Kingdom is that her markets are open to us without the imposition of a duty. If the markets of the United States are open to us on a similarly unimpeded trade basis it must naturally follow that trade will flow in its natural channels, there will be no inflation of values and less cornering or manipulation of markets for the enrichment of the trusts and gamblers who despoil the consumer. Mr. Goodeve is good plucking, and we propose to analyze a few more of his trade sophisms.

TRADE WITHIN EMPIRE.

We have been carefully following the leader of the opposition on his tour throughout the west as reported in the organs of his party; a tour which is now drawing to a conclusion and will be finished in a few days. We must confess to a distinct sense of disappointment with the manner in which Mr. Borden has met the west, though we admit a degree of admiration for his frank and unwavering statement of his unchangeable attitude toward the reciprocity pact. Mr. Borden's meetings are all his own and at no place where he spoke had he to meet a government opponent. Even at Edmonton, where Hon. Frank Oliver was in his meeting, the minister was not asked to the platform. We find no fault with this, as the meeting was Mr. Borden's and we are simply pointing out that he had a clear field at every address. Perhaps we may explain why we have been disappointed in his addresses.

His antagonism to reciprocity was not to the pact as a business or economic proposition; he was careful to avoid any discussion of the fiscal aspect of the question. Much of his time in every speech was devoted to magnifying the imaginary danger of dissolution of the empire and absorption of Canada into the United States. It is unnecessary for us to comment on the manner in which his loyalistic periods were received by the farmers and business men of the west, and it is sufficient to say that these were in no instance frightened by his boogey. They held their demands for reciprocal trade relations up to him with as much firmness as the firmness with which he avowed his unchangeable attitude. If he has created an admiration for himself as a man he has made no new political friends, and many who only wavered in their adherence before his tour in the hope that he would find some way of compromising with his managers on the reciprocity question have been disappointed and will vote against him on the sole issue of reciprocity.

Had Mr. Borden been in a position to promise his party following increased preference with Great Britain, he might have caused some dissension among his followers who were committed to reciprocity. Their demand for a larger market for their products was equalled by the emphasis which they put on their request for a reduction in the tariff on farm machinery, but Mr. Borden—owing to his alliance with the interests—was unable to offer any relief even in this matter. When asked if he would pledge himself to an increase in the British preference, he negatived the request with the evasion that it was necessary to raise a revenue to carry on the administration.

It is satisfactory to know that while Mr. Borden was doing these things Sir Wilfrid Laurier was advocating in the Imperial Conference the appointment of a Royal Commission to go fully into the question of preferential trade

within the empire. It is still more satisfactory to know that his proposal met with the unanimous approbation of the members of the conference and a resolution calling for the appointment of such a commission was carried without dissent.

We have not seen extended reference to the fact that this proposal is much more far-reaching than any scheme for increased preference with Great Britain. Sir Wilfrid's vision sees not only the desirability of closer trade relations between Canada and the Mother Country but a vast uncompleted scheme for the building-up of trade in a manner that shall comprise every integral member of the five nations. This is much more than a limitation of his trade policy to such interests as relate to Canada and Britain alone. It is a commercial chain composed of five strong links instead of two strong ones with incidental strength in the nature and metal of the others.

Viewed in this light—the only light which fully discloses the significance and substance of his proposal—Sir Wilfrid, instead of taking such a stand as would weaken the commercial bonds of empire, seems to have been the only statesman present at the conference who held and advocated so thoroughly an imperialist scheme.

The co-related resolution, the passing of which Sir Wilfrid secured, must be regarded as another part of his plans, especially as it so admirably seconded what seems to have been in his mind. We refer to the request that Great Britain ask permission for Canada and the other overseas dominions to withdraw from such trade treaties as had been made long ago and without the consent of the dominions. It is difficult to see how a scheme of Imperial preference could be carried out unless some such withdrawal is agreed upon. So long as these old treaties are held to be binding it is not possible to enter into any comprehensive Imperial trade plan which might be counter to any of these. It is unfair to read into any of Sir Wilfrid's words or to interpret any of his resolutions or plans in a manner adversely to the British empire until their exact probable effect is known by the development of the scheme of which he seems to be the originator. It may transpire in the evolution of his plans that he will yet demonstrate himself to be the greatest Imperialist of all. At any rate his proposal has met with wide favor and responsible journals commenting on its probable outline do not lose sight of the vastness of the trade problems that have to be met. Thus the Monetary Times says:

"Prior very many years, at least fifteen, since he had been in office, the Home Government when negotiating commercial treaties had followed the policy of not including any of the dominions within the scope of the treaty. It was suggested that the old treaties should now be brought into line. It was not an argument for separation, but would make for closer union. The proposal should be coupled with three principles:

(1) It should be the first effort of the self-governing dominions to develop their trade as far as possible with the Mother Country.

(2) They should not confine their efforts to the British markets, but should be allowed, as their second object, to increase their trade with other nations.

(3) Any benefits given by the dominions to other nations should be given also not only to the Mother Country, but to other dominions of the empire."

We make these remarks and these quotations to direct attention to the immeasurable distance between the statemanhood of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and that of Mr. R. L. Borden. The first is fertile with true Imperialism; the last lacks the first essentials of an idea of what Imperialism means.

In view of these projects of the Prime Minister it must be painful to those who are accustomed to think of Imperialism as something involving five nations to be compelled to read Mr. Borden's fierce denunciation of reciprocity as tending to disrupt the empire. How small an effect upon and what a small item in such an Imperialistic programme is a matter of closer and more neighborly and more profitable trade relations with the United States. There was a designation coined eight years ago; it was "Little Englanders." We shall be obliged to coin another to comprehend those who are citizens of the dominions and to all of them "Little Imperialists."

Sir Wilfrid says: "We have bailed British preference to the mast. We have tried it for fourteen years and it works well." What does Mr. Borden say?

The Toronto News asks: "What chance have 8,000,000 Canadians, in a contest with 90,000,000 Americans? About as much chance as a man with \$100 capital has in a partnership with a millionaire of over-reaching tendencies." And the Winnipeg Tribune replies: "Well, free trade Britain, with half the population of Uncle Sam's country, seems to peg along fairly well in trade matters. Come again."

Judged by the reports of Mr. Borden's address at Neepawa Thursday night the leader of the opposition is getting ready to stand under. He fixes responsibility on the government should the House be dissolved, and says the country can wait a few more years for reciprocity. His method of securing this is by appointing a trade commission. Undoubtedly that would be a successful method. Borden is after all a genial, laughable cuss.

Tuesday in the Ready-to-Wear Sections

This Week We Are Selling High-Class Novelties at Great Reductions

\$50.00 DRESSES FOR \$25.00, \$75.00 DRESSES FOR \$37.50

Evening Dresses and Afternoon Gowns in Silks, Marquisesettes, Chiffons, Crepe de Chine, Etc., at \$25.00 and \$37.50

AFTERNOON GOWNS AND EVENING DRESSES, in black and white, delicate blues, greens, white and many new, fashionable shades will go on sale Monday at 8.30 at these low figures. See window. It is almost impossible to describe them.

EVENING DRESSES AT \$25.00, made of rich satins, veiled chiffons, etc., trimmed with bugles and costly laces, or hand-somely embroidered in silks and trimmed with touches of Persian trimming. Price\$25.00

AFTERNOON GOWNS AT \$25.00, in Marquisesettes, silks and ladies' cloth, made with high necks, yokes of tinted materials or allover lace. Some have peasant sleeves, the cuffs being finished with frills of net or embroidered lace insertion. The skirts are in various styles, chiefly gathered with deep plain flounce, headed with band of material. Price.....\$25.00

EVENING DRESSES AT \$37.50, in silks, Marquisesettes, chiffon, pongee, taffetas, etc., in very handsome effects and dainty colors. Some of these dresses are handsomely trimmed in a variety of styles, including beautiful beaded nets and silk embroideries. Price\$37.50

DAINTY DRESSES IN MARQUISETTES AND MULLS AT \$18.75, in many very neat and stylish effects. Some hand-somely trimmed with lace insertion and shadow work in black silk, braiding and embroideries. Some have the popular Dutch neck and peasant sleeves; others have high or round necks and handsome yokes. See window display for further particulars. Price\$18.75

Items of Interest From Several Departments For Tuesday

July Bargains in Wash Dresses For Children and Misses

CHILDREN'S WHITE DRESSES, in many dainty styles, embroidered fronts, long sleeves, edged with embroidery, and high collar trimmed with embroidery. Price.....\$1.50

MISSIE'S WHITE MULL DRESSES, with three-quarter sleeves, yoke of tucks and lace insertion, waist band of lace insertion, skirt with deep flounce, tucked and headed with lace insertion. Price\$2.50

MISSIE'S DRESS, in cheek washing chambray with sailor collar, inner vest and black silk bow; collar, cuffs and belt in white pique, trimmed with blue and white braid. Priced at\$2.90

Men's Boots and Shoes, Values to \$6 to be Sold for \$3.50 During July Sale

MEN'S LACE OR BUTTON BOOTS, made from best quality patent calf, in many styles and shapes. Regular \$5 to \$6 per pair. All sizes\$3.50

BUTTON AND LACE BOOTS, in black calf skin, beautiful models. Regular \$5.00. To be sold at\$3.50

LACE BOOTS, in tan Russia calf, finest oak bark tanned soles and all the latest lasts. Regular \$5.00 shoes. Per pair\$3.50

MEN'S OXFORD TIES, in black, patent calf, gummetal, tan Russia, etc. Regular values \$5.00. Per pair\$3.50

BUTTON OXFORDS, in new styles in tan Russia calf and black gummetal calf, flexible soles, well finished and stylish models. Regular \$5 values. Per pair\$3.50

On Wednesday We Begin Our Staple Department Sale. See the Windows

DAVID SPENCER LTD.

BALMORAL HOTEL SITE HAS CHANGED HANDS

Rumored Purchase Price is \$350,000—Utmost Secrecy is Being Preserved

The Balmoral hotel on Douglas street, one of the most popular houses in the city of Victoria, has been sold. Who the purchaser are, and at what actual cost the transference of ownership was effected, as well as to what use the block may be assigned, is being kept a strict secret, for the obvious business reason that such knowledge would have a widespread effect upon other deals not yet completely effected, but the preliminaries for which are now under way. The essential fact that the property has been sold is unquestioned.

The B. C. Land & Investment Agency is responsible for putting through the deal, and naturally enough is somewhat reticent in regard to the details. It is not denied, however, that the sale has taken place, and that the figure responsible for the transference was a considerable handful—reported to be \$50,000 by some really men. The sale is in line with the general movement on Douglas street, which has been as sustained as it has been colossal.

The history of the Balmoral hotel is largely the modern history of the city of Victoria. Situated in what has now come to be recognized as one of the finest business thoroughfares in the city, it has enjoyed a reputation for service and accommodation which is unsurpassed. Being in direct juxtaposition to the Victoria theatre, it has been much frequented by theatrical and literary people, and, as a matter of fact, has maintained its standard of efficiency through all the vicissitudes of time. While appreciating the

acumen and the commercial necessities which demanded that new things must rule, it is easy to regret the passing of so universally popular a house—if, as seems possible—the property is to be put to other uses.

MOROCCAN SITUATION.

Negotiations Now in Progress at Berlin May Result in Settlement.

Berlin, July 10.—The Moroccan situation was the subject of a several hours conference to-day between the French Ambassador, Justin Cambon, and Baron Von Kiderlein, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

According to a semi-official statement the exchange of views shows that there is a sincere desire to reach an understanding.

Preliminary negotiations regarding Morocco are being held but nothing is made public officially, beyond the joint statement that the exchanges are on a friendly footing and that it is expected they will be prolonged. At this stage at least the negotiations are confined to Germany and France, the other interested powers being kept informed.

ARSENIC IN BISCUITS.

Miners Use Poison in Mistake for Baking Powder—One Dead, Another Dying.

Greeley, Colo., July 10.—As the result of using arsenic in place of baking powder in making biscuits, William Prunty is dead on his ranch 20 miles east of this city, and Jack Nelson, his partner, is not expected to live. The two men were holding down a claim.

Weather was probably invented by his Satanic majesty so that people would have something to growl about when there was nothing else at hand.

The wrinkles caused by worry are the result of worrying over something that worry could not help.

LONG FLIGHT WITH PASSENGER.

Berlin, July 10.—Burchner, with a passenger, arrived at Johannesburg to-day, being the first of the aviators to complete the German circuit race. He wins the third prize as Koening and Vollmuller have greater totals of victories.

These three, with Latsch, left Humberstadt at 3:30 o'clock this morning, Burchner reaching here three hours and six minutes later.

The last stage was 127 miles, to which 25 per cent. mileage is added in the case of all three, as a bonus for carrying a passenger.

EXPRESS RATES.

Washington, D. C., July 10.—Denying the right of the Wells-Fargo Express Company to charge parcel rates on bulk packages, the Interstate Commerce commission Saturday reaffirmed a point previously laid down, and ordered that after September 1 carriers shall not make the ownership of property offered for transportation a condition to the application of particular rates.

The decision affects every express company operating in the United States. The complainant in the case decided was the California Commercial Association, which charged that the express company in accepting boxes for transportation claimed the right to charge parcel rates if the contents were destined for different persons, though the delivery was to be made in bulk.

LOSES LONG FIGHT.

Berlin, July 10.—Prince Helle De Sagan, Anna Gould's husband, has just lost a long fought suit in the German courts whereby he sought to set aside the right of his two-year-old son, Prince Charles Jason Howard, to inherit the De Sagan family estate in this country. Prince De Sagan set up the claim that as his son was born in France the boy is not eligible to inherit the estate, hoping thereby to make it impossible for his German creditors to attach the revenues of the estate.

The courts have decided that the baby Prince is the legal heir to the property and that the revenues may be secured to satisfy Prince Helle's debts.

RUSSIA'S NEW DREADNOUGHT.

St. Petersburg, July 10.—The Potemkin, the second of the four battleships of the Dreadnought type laid down in June, 1909, was launched at the admiralty dock yard to-day, the anniversary of the battle of Potemkin. The vessel is of 23,000 tons and in dimensions and armament is the same as the Svasvopolia, which was launched June 29. She will carry twelve 2-inch guns, sixteen 4-7 inch guns and smaller artillery.

WORK RESUMED.

Boston, July 10.—More than 3,600 operatives, employed in Toddlers mills in various parts of New England, resumed work to-day after shutdowns of varying lengths in accordance with the policy of curtailing production adopted by the mill managers.

AUTO ENDURANCE TOUR.

Southampton, July 10.—Prince Henry of Prussia, with 37 German and 27 British motorists, who are competing in the annual Prince Henry automobile endurance tour, landed here yesterday from the steamer Grosser Kurfuerst. They will continue the tour to-day with a run to Oxford.

The endurance tour started from Homburg on July 5. A stop was made at Cologne, and from there the country was traversed through Germany to Hamburg.

The autos were then put on the Grosser Kurfuerst.

FORMER JOCKEY KILLED.

Memphis, Tenn., July 10.—Thos. Dolan, a former jockey, was shot and killed last night by J. H. Hughes, a merchant and planter of Hayes, Ark., in the room occupied by Hughes, in a local hotel, following a dispute over a diamond stud Hughes says he missed.

Ottawa, July 10.—Hon. A. K. McLean, attorney-general for Nova Scotia, announces his intention to retire from provincial politics to practice law in Montreal.

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"Boss" Johnson
F. Sweeney
Joe Dakers