

from Ottawa. If this means that thorough preparation for the diplomatic joust is not being made, it may be permissible to remind them that this is not the way such contests are won; it is not the way Sir Oliver Mowat won in the Ontario boundary dispute, in which, at the outset, the other side believed everything was against him, and in fact they never made such original investigation as would have made the best of their own case; all they did was to deal skilfully with the case as presented by Ontario. As to the composition of the Canadian side of the International Commission, while the most competent man, Senator Mills, is left off, it would be difficult to guess what special qualification led to Mr. Charlton being put on. Again we must remind those concerned that this is not the way diplomatic contests are won. But in spite of all, let us hope for a reasonable measure of success.

On the first test vote the Hardy Government is supported by a majority of six. As the division was a strict party vote that majority will be relied on to pass the bill providing for a reference to the Court of Appeal of the disputed question of the right to vote of constables and of persons who performed other services, or furnished necessary things for the purposes of the election. The bill provides that, pending the decision of the court, election trials shall be postponed. Whatever the decision of the court, election constables are hereafter to have the right to vote, the same as they have actually exercised for thirty years. If the decision be against the constables the bill proposes to indemnify them against any legal consequences their voting might have incurred; and if any candidate's majority consisted of the vote of these persons the opposing candidate is not to have the seat, but the matter is to be decided by a new election. Party feeling grows hot and rises high over the measure.

ENGLAND RELYING ON THE TREATY OF TIENTSIN.

In all the difficulties which England is encountering in China the British Premier relies upon the Treaty of Tientsin. So Lord Salisbury states in distinct terms. Prior to this treaty the only ports in China for foreign trade were Canton, Amoy, Foo-Chou, Ningpo and Shanghai. The Treaty of Tientsin opened to British commerce, and through the most favored nation arrangement which they possessed, to other nations, the additional ports of New-Chwang, Tong-Chow, Tai-Wau (Formosa since lost to Japan). Though this treaty named only Great Britain and China, Lord Elgin in his despatches distinctly recognized that he was gaining equal privileges for all nations that had treaties with China containing the most favored nation clause, and as a matter of fact they have ever since enjoyed the same privilege as England obtained for herself. Europe, apart from Great Britain, has nevertheless not shown her ability to compete to any proportionate extent with the nation that secured the treaty from China. The United States under this treaty secures a larger amount of trade than all Europe, except England, in whose hands the great bulk of the business remains, the United States being a good second. As for France, much of the trade of her territorial acquisitions in Cochin China, in spite of her double tariff, has shown a strong tendency to go to Hong Kong. By the treaty of Tientsin three other ports, including Hong Kong, were to be opened to British commerce, which carried with it the same right for the commerce of other nations when the disturbances, then existing in that region, should have ceased. A year from the date of the treaty, which was made in 1856, was named as the time

for the opening of the great river Yangtz, the upper and lower valleys of which were then disturbed by rebellion. At the ports now opened all the privileges enjoyed by the British at those previously open were obtained. These included the right of residence at the ports named, the right of buying and renting houses, of leasing land and building churches and hospitals and securing cemeteries. A provision which all the Chancellories of Europe had put into their treaties with nations whose administration of justice it is not safe to trust, found a place here: British subjects in China charged with crime are to be tried and punished by the British consul or other public functionary, according to the laws of Great Britain; but Chinese subjects guilty of criminal acts towards British subjects are to be arrested and punished by the Chinese authorities according to the laws of China.

In regard to the tariff, Great Britain obtained by the Treaty of Tientsin no exclusive privileges, Art. XXIV. reads: "It is agreed that British subjects shall pay on all merchandise imported or exported by them the duties prescribed by the tariff; but in no case shall they be required to pay other or higher duties than are required of the subjects of any other foreign nation." Either party to the treaty might demand a revision of the tariff and of the commercial articles of this treaty at the end of ten years; and whatever changes were made, if any, were to remain in force for ten years more; and this was to happen in the procession of the decades, indefinitely.

In addition to the customs duty there was payable, under the Treaty of Nankin, a transit duty, the amount of which was not to exceed a certain percentage on the tariff value; and to prevent a repetition of previous disputes as to the amount payable it was agreed that at all treaty ports now open, or hereafter opened, "the authority appointed to superintend the collection of duties shall be obliged, upon application of the consul, to declare the amount of duty leviable on produce between the place of production and shipment and upon imports between the consular port in question and the inland markets named by the consul." Tonnage duties are also payable. British consuls have a voice in consultation with the superintendents of customs regarding the erection of beacons or light-houses and the distribution of buoys and lightships. The British merchant, too, has a voice in fixing, with the Chinese customs officer, the value of goods paying an *ad valorem* duty; in case of disagreement each party is entitled to call in two or three Chinese merchants, and the highest price at which any one of them is willing to purchase is to be the value for duty. But it does not appear that merchants are obliged to sell at that price. If a British merchant and the Chinese customs officer cannot agree upon the tare weight of certain goods the British merchant can appeal to his consul, by whom the case will be referred to the superintendent of customs. The value of damaged goods is to be fixed in the same way as the value of goods for *ad valorem* duties. British goods imported may be re-exported at convenience. British merchant vessels cannot enter any other port than those declared open by treaty; but British ships of war, having no hostile purpose, are at liberty to enter all Chinese ports, where they may purchase provisions, procure water, or, if need be, make repairs.

Great Britain having by these treaties opened China to the trade of the world, finds other nations trying to recompense her by a policy of exclusiveness and practical monopoly. Lord Salisbury appeals to the Treaty of Tientsin for protection of British interests; but it seems certain that some of the dangers with which England is