

Mr. BUNSTER, continuing, said that, when His Excellency the Governor-General visited British Columbia last season, he was well received, as he deserved to be; and he, also, well received the farmers who waited on him *en masse*, and laid their grievances on this subject before him. His Excellency promised to aid them as much as lay in his power. It was reported that he (Lord Dufferin) had said that the farmers needed protection, but it was a question for his Ministers to deal with, the only thing he (Lord Dufferin) could do being to recommend the matter to them.

Mr. BLAKE: Hear, hear.

Mr. BUNSTER said the hon. the Minister of Justice would not find him saying anything except what was correct and in the interests of British Columbia. His Excellency, having given the farmers a hearing and assured them that he would give all the assistance in his power, they (the farmers), a large and influential body, had solicited him (Mr. Bunster) to bring the matter before Parliament, and ask that a special tariff should be granted in the interests of the Province. No doubt it would be argued that a special or differential tariff could not be extended to any particular part of the Dominion, but it should be remembered that British Columbia was labouring at present under the disadvantages of a tariff almost altogether opposed to the wants and wishes of the people of that Province. British Columbia did not enjoy the privileges acquired under the Washington Treaty by other Provinces of the Dominion, and upon that fact he based the claim to have a special tariff framed in her interests. It was a matter of justice that that distant Province should receive the consideration on this subject it was so well entitled to. Their markets had been flooded with American produce, to the detriment of the farmers, ever since the Province came into the Union. The farmers on the island of San Juan, who felt they were labouring under great injustice in this matter as subjects of Great Britain, now possessed a market which they would not have obtained if they had remained part and parcel of the Dominion. He claimed,

on behalf of British Columbia, that, inasmuch as there was already a differential tariff against the Province, the Government should take the subject into its favourable consideration and grant what was now so urgently needed and required, thus fulfilling the promise, or partial promise, made by His Excellency to the farmers of that country—a promise, he might add, that had made their hearts rejoice, giving them confidence, as it did, that they would be fairly and honourably dealt with by the Dominion authorities.

Mr. SPEAKER said that it was well known His Excellency could not make a statement on public affairs unless under the responsibility of Ministers of the Crown. It was not, therefore, strictly in order for any hon. member to inform the House as to what His Excellency did or did not say. His Excellency's name should not be used for the purpose of influencing the opinion of the House.

Mr. BUNSTER said he would also call the attention of the Government to a resolution passed in 1876 by the Local Legislature of British Columbia. It read as follows:—

“That, whereas, by the 7th clause of the Terms of Union, it is provided that the Customs Tariff and Excise Duties existing within the Province at the date of union should continue in force until the railway from the Pacific coast and the system of railways in Canada should be connected, unless by decision of the Legislature of British Columbia the Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada should sooner be adopted;

“And whereas, owing principally to the anticipated early construction and completion of the Pacific Railway, the Legislature of British Columbia adopted the Canadian Tariff and Excise Laws;

“And whereas the agricultural portion of the community throughout the Province have suffered severely from the adoption of the Canadian Tariff, which, while admitting some farm products free, imposed but a low rate of duty on all others—(he might say that scarcely any duties were imposed on foreign products)—and as connection between the Pacific Coast and the railway system of Canada is not likely to be accomplished so soon as was at first understood;

“And whereas, moreover, the neighbouring possessions of the United States of America overflow with a surplus of commodities which this Province can produce in sufficiency for more than its present need:

“Therefore, your memorialists respectfully ask that your Excellency may be