

not satisfied with the advantages which they have enjoyed from the appointment of partisan returning officers, they have stooped to the low level of misrepresenting the American Secretary of State, and when they were taken to task by the American Secretary of State, like Ancient Pistol, they had to eat the leek, but, nauseous as was the operation, the leek had served the

#### DESIRED PURPOSE OF DOING DUTY IN THE

elections. Now we are told that the Government, at the fourteenth hour, have decided to send commissioners to Washington. What are the circumstances which have at last induced the Government to reverse their policy and to do that which they have refused to do during so many years? Sir, the reason is not far to seek; it is now a matter of history. It was the policy of our sister colony, Newfoundland, which, not so fastidious as the Government of Canada, took proper steps to secure a treaty, and they did it in a very business-like way. Sir William Whiteway, Premier of Newfoundland, and Mr. Bond, a member of his Government, were in London. Mr. Bond secured a letter of introduction from Lord Salisbury to Sir Julian Pauncefote, the English ambassador at Washington, who then introduced Mr. Bond to Mr. Blaine, and inside of eight days a treaty of reciprocity was negotiated between Mr. Bond and Mr. Blaine, whereby Newfoundland secured the admission of her fish free of duty to the United States, and gave in return to the United States free bait on the coast of Newfoundland. During all that time our Government were standing, or rather sleeping, on their dignity. Sir Julian Pauncefote, however, thought that it was time to arouse

#### THEM FROM THEIR DIGNIFIED SLUMBER

and to tell them what was going on. Then they became very lively. Their action took the form of a protest. Protests by telegrams and protests by letters urging Sir Charles Tupper to prevent the Colonial Secretary from allowing that treaty to go into force. I will not now discuss the question of the policy of this Government, whether it was fair or not, toward the sister colony of Newfoundland, in preventing her from managing her own affairs according to her own views—I leave that for another occasion; but I am now discussing the point in so far only as it relates to the previous policy of the Government, who at last were forced, by the action of Newfoundland, to take steps to prevent them from gaining an advantage which we could not have ourselves without negotiating a treaty. They remonstrated at the Colonial Office. But the Colonial Secretary of State told them the only thing they could do was to follow the example of the people of Newfoundland and negotiate a treaty for themselves, or to become a party to the negotiations then going on; and that is the way in which our Government have been brought to this position, that on the 12th of October next they are going to send commissioners to Washington to negotiate a treaty. Now, what is the basis upon which they will negotiate that treaty? Sir, I venture to say after the long debate that we have had that they do not know yet upon what basis they will negotiate. There