

ASQUITH DISCUSSES TRADE WITH CANADA

British Premier Deals With the Question of Trade Between the Imperial Dominions, Using Canadian Preference as Viewpoint—Says Overseas States Would not Consent to Free Trade Arrangement

London, July 22.—Premier Asquith, replying to Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons, dealt with the question of imperial trade and colonial preference. Canada's preferential tariff was the point about which the debate chiefly occurred.

Mr. Asquith, who was received with ministerial cheers, said: "I imagine, sir, that we are confined by the rules of order to the discussion of the second reading of the appropriation bill, and that we are not permitted on an occasion such as this to debate the larger and wider question of whether or not legislative changes which the government have not undertaken ought to be proposed. That, to a certain extent, limits the sphere of controversy. But I confess I hail with the greatest satisfaction the fact that the right hon. gentleman has chosen this occasion to raise once more a question which, I think, has been too long allowed to slumber within the walls of this House, which, until a recent date, was an active issue of political controversy, namely, the question of what is called colonial preference. It seems to me to be suggested by some of the remarks of the right hon. gentleman that the imperial government would be inensible and unresponsive to the wishes expressed by the colonies at the colonial conference. Let me say that that is not the case. The colonial conference which met in 1917 passed twenty resolutions in all, and I may fairly say that in regard to all these twenty resolutions, which dealt with most diverse matters in regard to inter-colonial policy—in regard to the fact that the colonies were to be given preferential tariffs, the imperial government has, in the interval that has since elapsed, taken effective action (hear, hear). As regards those three in which the colonies were to be given preferential tariffs, the resolutions were carried against the opposition of the representatives of the government.

Canadian Offer of Preference.

The gravamen of the right hon. gentleman's complaint really is that we have not departed from the position we then took up and which was in the direction of colonial preference. Let me ask the House to consider how the matter stands with regard to the only one of our dominions which can be said to have reached a developed stage—I mean Canada. I acknowledge, and so did my right hon. friend (Mr. Lloyd George), at the colonial conference in 1917, that the preferential tariff given by Canada to British trade had been beneficial to British trade (opposition cheers)—in exactly the same way that the same spirit in which I have always admitted that protective tariffs imposed by foreign countries are injurious to British trade (ministerial cheers). Every artificial restriction upon our exports, which is a source of loss to the British Empire, is a source of gain to the different countries which produce, to a diminution and impoverishment of production and consumptive powers (more cheers).

But, having made that admission, which is in no way inconsistent with the most rigid conception of the doctrine of free trade, let us consider how the matter stands at present. The two great competitors in the Canadian market are the United Kingdom and the United States. The United States, of course, enjoys the enormous and incalculable advantage of geographical proximity, and therefore has a position on a different footing from all other nations of the world as regards Canada. The facts are these: that for the last nine or ten years the respective positions of the United Kingdom and the United States as importing countries in the Canadian market have been constant. The British imports being about a quarter of the whole. It may interest the House to know that during the last year for which the figures are complete, 1918-9, as regards the import trade into Canada, 52 per cent. came from the United States, 40 per cent. from the United Kingdom and 6 per cent. from British colonies and possessions, leaving only 12 per cent. to be divided between Germany, France, and other countries of the world.

Germany's Trade With Canada.

I am going now to consider the point the right hon. gentleman made as regards Canada's negotiating power. Canada has three tariffs: there is the general tariff applicable to the imports of most countries; the intermediate tariff, granted by way of concession in return for reciprocal benefits; and the preferential tariff, which is granted to ourselves. The rates of the preferential tariff are approximately 20 per cent. lower than those of the intermediate tariff and 30 per cent. lower than the general tariff. It will take what has been done with regard to our two principal industrial competitors in the international, and amongst others, in the Canadian market—Germany and the United States. In regard to Germany, as the House well knows, Canada, in consequence of the hostile tariff action on the part of Germany, imposed a surtax some years ago of something like 33 per cent. that is to say, in addition to the duties leviable in the general tariff. In consequence of the arrangements come to between Germany and Canada last year the present year Germany has now come under the general or highest tariff imposed by Canada upon all imported goods, the products of British labor and British capital, would be a really effective and damaging competition to the colonial capitalists and workmen engaged in the same form of manufacture, then the tariff walls rise instantly to such a height that you will be excluded, and are intended to be excluded, from their markets. I make no complaint of that; on the contrary, I should like to see, as much as any man in this House, inter-imperial free trade. It is a great ideal which members on both sides would be glad to welcome if it were possible. But so long as colonial opinion leads them to practise the doctrine of Protection for Native Industries, anything in the nature of an inter-imperial free trade is an impossibility. There you are. To us here cheap food and cheap raw material is not the thing we want. The industrial welfare—(Ministerial cheers)—and we cannot consent, either on food or on raw material to the imposition of such a tariff. The industrial welfare in the sense of the world, reducing, as we believe, both the profits of capital and the wages of laborers.

Price of a Free Empire.

On the other hand, look at our colonies. They consider themselves young communities, and, for the most part, they consider it of essential interest to themselves that they should foster and develop their manufactures by means of protective tariffs. They are perfectly entitled to do so. This Empire can never be kept together and it would never have been what it is today, an Empire bound not so much by material but by moral, social, and affectionate bonds of interest and sympathy, if we are to insist on dictating to Downing street what, for example, should be the fiscal policy of Australia. Most wisely, most prudently, we gave them complete fiscal autonomy, and the result has been, undoubtedly, to some extent, the development of the home market. That is the price we are most glad to pay for a free empire, for an empire which does not rest upon the coordination of one interest against another, but on the freest and fullest development of the whole. Let us be content here to develop our fiscal policy, but let us allow our colonies to develop theirs in accordance with their own interests. The interplay of both and the recognition of each in the Empire of complete freedom in these matters is the best security of unity, and by it we shall maintain not only the traditions of the Empire, but by the foundations of a still more solid and enduring future. (Loud Ministerial cheers).

OLDS FARMERS SATISFIED.

Some Fine Samples of Grain From That District Taken to Calgary.

Calgary, Aug. 4.—With a sheaf of various grains that are now being raised in Alberta, the Ontario produce when necessary, Mr. A. J. Smythe, of Vancouver, B.C., who has been spending a week in the Olds district, returned to the city last night with a fine sample of the grain. Mr. Smythe's automobile all through the Olds section, and he states that the crops there are in splendid condition. The Olds farmers are getting all the rain they require, and in this section, the potatoes are as good as anything else.

The samples brought in by Mr. Smythe were from the farm of Hugh McNaughton, at the Lone Pine school house, eight miles northeast of Olds. The wheat, which will go about 35 bushels to the acre, was fifty-four inches high, and the timothy and oats were also that height and very heavy. Samples of rye from the same farm were 5 feet 6 inches in height.

ACTIONS AGAINST C. N. R.

Canadian Pacific After Sub-Contractors for Trespass on Property.

Calgary, Aug. 4.—Following in the wake of the action which was issued at the instigation of the C. P. R. against a number of Canadian Northern sub-contractors, demanding \$25,000 each as damages alleged to have been incurred to C. P. R. property in the course of the construction work on the C. N. R. roadbed, being done by the said contractors and which cases are still pending, the Canadian Pacific company has sworn out informations against the same contractors, this time charging them with trespass and damaging property to the extent of \$20 each. The hearings of which there will be about 18 or 20, will take place next week before the mounted police in this city.

The \$25,000 writs followed the failure of the C. P. R. to obstruct the Canadian Northern Railway company from crossing its lands through the province of an injunction over a month ago.

Messrs. Breckenridge and Lund, railway contractors in this city, have been served with five summonses, all for trespassing on Canadian Pacific property.

Earthquake Shocks Recorded.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Heavy earthquake shocks were recorded on the west coast of North America, owing to a disturbance which lasted for a period of 47 minutes. The shocks began at 8.46 p.m. and continued until 9.32. Indications were that the centre of the disturbance was about 2,000 miles east of Washington.

WITH THE FARMERS

FARMERS' MARKET.

Edmonton, Monday, August 4.—The price of oats is still rising, some selling as high as 40c per bushel. Eggs have also had a slight upward tendency. The demand for dairy products on the market is good. Quite a few new potatoes were sold this week, the price remaining about the same as last week.

Grain and Feed.

Oats, 35 to 40c per bushel; timothy hay, \$18 to \$20 per ton; upland hay, \$14 to \$16 per ton; slough hay, \$10 to \$12 per ton; green feed, \$9 per ton.

Dairy Products.

Butter, 25c to 26c per lb.; eggs, 23c to 25c per dozen.

Vegetables.

New potatoes, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2c per lb.; old potatoes, 40c to 50c per bushel.

Live Stock.

Choice quality hogs, 150 to 250 lbs., 6c; rough and heavy, 6c to 7c; good fat steers, 1,200 and 1,300, 3 1/4 to 3 3/4c; extra good fat heifers, 1,050 lbs., 3c to 3 1/2c; moderate quality fat cows, 300 lbs. and up, 1 1/4 to 2 1/4c; good calves, 125 to 200 lbs., 4 1/2 to 5c; good calves, 200 to 300 lbs., 5 1/2 to 6c; choice killing sheep, 5 1/2 to 6c; choice killing lambs, 6 1/2 to 7c.

FOREST FIRES MEAN BIG LOSSES IN B.C.

Forest Encompassed in Shroud of Smoke—British Columbia Mountain Lumber Companies' Loss Will Be Heavy—Great Damage to Standing Timber.

Fernie, Aug. 4.—The week of the second anniversary of the great fire finds Fernie enveloped in a curtain of smoke from forest fires which shuts the sun from view, and at this moment, five o'clock p.m., electric lights have to be turned on to enable people to work in offices. There is no danger from these fires to any of the towns in this district, but much damage continues to be done to timber, and unless heavy continuous rains set in these fires will continue their ravages until a blanket of snow falls and smother them.

Fire Warden Wilmut is in today from Corbin and reports fires in many localities, eating their way up the sides of the mountains and getting beyond the reach of the fighters. A report comes from Elk stating that fire razing near Galloway, ten miles from Elk.

Lumber Co. Loses.

The East Kootenay Lumber Co. is reported to have lost 1,000,000 feet of lumber at their number eight mill, below Moyie, yesterday, together with a steam log loader, and it took hard fighting by a large gang of men to save the mill from the same fate. This is the first serious loss of lumber reported from the district west of here.

There are indications of rain, which may check the fires again, but the loss will continue until a fall of snow comes to effectively stop the fires.

Heavy Losses.

The provincial government reported a few days ago that the loss of timber to that date was estimated to be \$3,000,000, but it will take much larger figures to express the loss at the end of the season.

The fire department has finished laying pipe line across Coal creek, south of town, and have thus completed all possible arrangements to effectively check any fire that might reach that locality before it could cross the creek and endanger the houses in the park.

H. A. Whiting of Spokane, F. H. Clement of Victoria, and J. D. McDonald and J. J. Dawson of Calgary, are in town today.

Local People See Fires.

H. Macbeth, who with Miss Jessie, returned yesterday morning from a few days' visit to Nelson, B.C., says that the bush fires were burning badly again on both sides of the tracks all the way from Kootenay Landing down into the foothills on the eastern slope. The loss of timber in this year's fires, he says, must be tremendous. He heard from a Vancouver commercial traveller who left the train at Cranbrook that the same conditions that prevail in the east Kootenay, and down the east slope prevail the whole way through to the coast.

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NEW

Bulletin News Service

At the adjournment of the town council, Mr. Mayor was instructed to take necessary action re tax authorizing the 1919-20 tax. A rebate of 10 per cent. of the current year's tax was granted on the 15th November. A ratepayers' meeting was held at the base ball and next regular meeting.

W. P. Lundy, successful in the Alberta Provincial election, a record of 1,000 yards and prizes valued to his credit.

The town welcomed G. W. West, former West. After having visited Prince Rupert, Fort William, and Pegu, and having had a successful trip to the Yukon, he was married to Miss Laura May Penhold.

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LONDON STOCK MARKETS.

London, August 4.—The London stock market closed at 100. The 6 1/2 per cent. Victoria, 4 1/2 per cent. and pounds 37,800 Victoria, B.C. Application made to list 105,100, 4 1/2 per cent. and 21,600 Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent.

BOYS BRIGADES MAY JOIN.

Calgary, Aug. 4.—In the near future the boy scouts of the entire province of Alberta may become one of the recognized units of the Canadian army. The cause of this organization of youthful volunteers has been taken up by such personages as the governor general, who has expressed a desire that the youngsters be given a recognized standing.

The first step will be taken on Friday, when Lieut. Governor Bullock will confer with Lieut. Colonel Cruikshanks, when definite plans will be formulated. Delegates from school boards will also be present.

It is considered possible that an amalgamation of the various units of school cadets and the boy scouts will be effected.

LAKE CAPTAIN IS KILLED.

Derrick Broke and Brains Were Dashed Out.

Port Arthur, Ont. Aug. 4.—Captain John Whiteside, of the Merchants Mutual Steamship company's boat Acadia, was killed in his boat at the worst electrical storm in years passed over the district yesterday afternoon causing much damage to property.

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Chicago, Aug. 5.—Great damage alleged to have resulted from excessive rains in France turned sentiment today in favor of traders who were fighting the rain. European wheat was based on a view of later reports from the French capital and from Antwerp. The corn trade was local in character. Support came chiefly from the late strength in wheat. Country forwardings of oats were not so large as expected. Farmers were said to be holding back and selling wheat had not preference. The day's highest and lowest quotations for September delivery were 97 1/2 to 36 1/2 and 98 1/2 to 37 1/2. Receipts of hogs at Western Point were lower than a year ago. Associated with fact quotations for procease eased off, finishing ten cents down for pork, 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 and 7 1/2 for lard, and 3 1/2 to 7 1/2 for ribs.

LONDON STOCK MARKETS.

London, August 4.—The London stock market closed at 100. The 6 1/2 per cent. Victoria, 4 1/2 per cent. and pounds 37,800 Victoria, B.C. Application made to list 105,100, 4 1/2 per cent. and 21,600 Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent.

BOYS BRIGADES MAY JOIN.

Calgary, Aug. 4.—In the near future the boy scouts of the entire province of Alberta may become one of the recognized units of the Canadian army. The cause of this organization of youthful volunteers has been taken up by such personages as the governor general, who has expressed a desire that the youngsters be given a recognized standing.

The first step will be taken on Friday, when Lieut. Governor Bullock will confer with Lieut. Colonel Cruikshanks, when definite plans will be formulated. Delegates from school boards will also be present.

It is considered possible that an amalgamation of the various units of school cadets and the boy scouts will be effected.

LAKE CAPTAIN IS KILLED.

Derrick Broke and Brains Were Dashed Out.

Port Arthur, Ont. Aug. 4.—Captain John Whiteside, of the Merchants Mutual Steamship company's boat Acadia, was killed in his boat at the worst electrical storm in years passed over the district yesterday afternoon causing much damage to property.

The house of A. Hand, on Connelly street, was struck and burned, and on opposite side of the river, the barn and contents were destroyed after lightning had struck it. A building was also struck and fired in town but the flames quenched with but little damage.

BAD STORM AT WOODSTOCK.

Woodstock, Ont., August 3.—The worst electrical storm in years passed over the district yesterday afternoon causing much damage to property.

The house of A. Hand, on Connelly street, was struck and burned, and on opposite side of the river, the barn and contents were destroyed after lightning had struck it. A building was also struck and fired in town but the flames quenched with but little damage.

THEY ATTEMPT TO FLY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Wilbur Van Inman Outlines Plans of Trip in Dirigible Balloon—Does Not Fear Accident.

New York, Aug. 3.—Wilbur Van Inman, aviator and mechanical engineer, returned to America on Saturday by the liner La Touraine, full of confidence in the flight across the Atlantic which he proposes to undertake with Walter Wellman in their dirigible airship America.

Mr. Wellman met him at the pier and both left immediately for Atlantic City to make ready for housing the America, which is to arrive here on Wednesday by the Oceanic. "The America will carry an unbreakable life boat on her voyage," said Mr. Van Inman. "The life boat will be 65 feet long, six feet in beam and will be stocked with provisions sufficient to last the crew for thirty days. Besides Mr. Wellman and myself, we shall carry two mechanics, who I brought over from France, a wireless operator and one other man not yet chosen.

"The wireless operator will supply news of the voyage to the New York Times, the Chicago Record-Herald, and the London Daily Telegraph, none of which will be allowed to see the dirigible otherwise than as customers for whatever of interest it may have to tell.

"Flying above the ocean," continued Mr. Van Inman, "will play a part compared to some of the flights we made in the Arctic. In both our failures here the fault was not with the dirigible proper but in one instance with our instruments which failed to give us an exact idea of where we were going, and in the other with our guide rope which broke by reason of a defective piece of leather.

"Crossing the Atlantic we shall fly to keep at a level of 300 feet above the water. In case of accident, short of a disaster we ought to have no trouble, equipped as we shall be with wireless, in getting into touch with one of our many transatlantic lines. For fuel we shall carry four tons of gasoline. It is necessary to start from Atlantic City because only there could we find a station big enough to receive the America, but conditions permitting we shall fly over New York on our way to sea. Our objective point will be London, but any place in England will look good enough to land on."

EMIGRATION FROM U.S. IS ALMOST DOUBLED.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Immigration from and emigration to Canada is the subject of a statement just issued by the United States immigration bureau. During the 12 months which ended March last, there were 74,912 arrivals of aliens and citizens from Canada for permanent residence in the United States against 61,517 during the previous 12 months.

CALGARY DAIRYMEN