

INFORMATION WANTED.

Hon. Mr. Foster Inquires as to the Fiscal Policy of the Government.

Imperative Necessity of Definite Information in View of the Existing Unrest.

No Doubt as to the Views of the Conservatives on This Important Question.

In the House of Commons on the 22nd instant Hon. Mr. Foster on motion to go into committee of supply introduced his trade policy resolution with a long and comprehensive speech, in which he dealt with the histories of the two parties on this question for the last eighteen years. He said he desired to ask the attention of the House for a little time while he brought within its purview a matter of very considerable importance at any time, but which at the present moment seemed to take on even a greater degree of importance than usual. He referred to the tariff question, or rather to the legislation with reference to the tariff which it was evidently the intention of the government to introduce at the next session of parliament. The importance of this question was not, he considered, at all diminished by the fact that Canada was at present a young, growing and developing country. There was nothing, he supposed, which came within the range of government action about which the people expected, and rightly expected.

GREATER DEFINITENESS as to the policy of any party, and if a change was impending greater definiteness with reference to that change, than in the matter of tariff legislation. By an examination of the history of government in civilized countries it might be ascertained that there had never been any very long period of uncertainty with regard to the position occupied by any political party on the question of the tariff. It was therefore that consideration, the principle upon which the tariff would be revised, and the time at which it should be revised, which brought him to make these remarks. But there was another reason, and that was the somewhat widespread though quiet epidemic which had been raging among hon. gentlemen opposite, which had attacked the leaders of the government, and which seemed to have resulted in a most extraordinary loss of memory among those leaders. (Opposition applause.) Well understood lines of policy which had been repeated again and again in various sections of the country seemed to have utterly faded from the memories of the hon. gentlemen opposite, and he therefore felt it his duty to bring

FACTS AND FIGURES which would set out as shortly as possible the different promises made by hon. gentlemen opposite with reference to the tariff in the last five years. First, with reference to the attitude of the Liberal party on this question for the last eighteen years he thought he could say without fear of contradiction that there had been one line upon which that party had been fairly consistent, and which had for all that time been running through their resolutions and platform speeches, and that had been their uncompromising hostility to the system of tariff protection as applied to the fiscal policy of the country. It was shown during the period from 1874 to 1878 during which they had administered the affairs of the country. Again, when Sir John A. Macdonald and his party expressed their determination, should they gain power, to place upon the statute book the principle of protection, they had developed a strong opposition both to the principle and to the practice. It was true that there had been certain members who had not been brought into the present line of the government (Mr. Laurier) had at that time avowed himself, both in and outside of parliament, as a believer in the principle and

PRACTICE OF PROTECTION, and in this respect he had followed by the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and the present member for North Grey (Mr. Patterson), both of whom had held very strong views, and who had given their adhesion to the protective principles as applied to the tariff for the country, giving also their reasons for their belief. It had not been long afterward when all these gentlemen had changed their belief, coming to the conclusion that their early principles had been wrong, and that they must adopt the opposite view. This they had done, and in a very few years they had been found among the strongest opponents of protection in the House, consistently voicing their opposition, and expressing their belief in the opposite doctrine, whatever that doctrine might happen at the time to be, and at various times putting their views in concrete form in the shape of resolutions. But although, in their expressions on the floor of the House, they had been a unit against the principle of protection, it was found that ever and anon, in different sections of the country, gentlemen acknowledging the leadership of the party opposite were yet saying that when they came to

FORM A TARIFF they would not be found adverse to the protective principle, that manufacturers and producers need have nothing to fear, and that when it came to a revision of the tariff next year, the country would find that that principle would not be destroyed or eradicated from the statutes of the country. It was therefore necessary that the House should hear the statements of the Liberal leaders, statements so clear and definite that it was impossible for the country to read them without coming to the belief that when they came to revise the tariff they could not consistently permit the system of protection to continue. Mr. Foster next invited the attention of the House to the past utterances of Mr. Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Davies and other Liberal leaders with respect to protection. He read extracts after extracts from the speeches of those gentlemen, in which protection was referred to by one or other as a system of

legalized robbery, and one that would be speedily terminated when the Liberals got into power. But he need not quote further, he said, in order to show that the Liberal party was on record as determinedly opposed to the principle and the practice of protection. Not until 1887 were there signs of a change in the attitude of the

LIBERAL PARTY with reference to this matter. Then Mr. Edward Blake perceived that when, after a lengthened period of debate and discussion, the country had accepted a great fiscal policy, and, after the business interests of the country had been worked out on the basis of that policy, it became those in opposition to it to consider very carefully whether they ought not to accept the will of the people as expressed in favor of the principle of protection, and limit themselves simply to seeking modifications of the tariff in the direction wherein it might be considered to bear too heavily upon certain sections of the community. After 1887, however, the leaders of the Liberal party took the bit in their teeth, and determined to have catch words for their policy, something brand new which would serve as a positive policy on their part might serve to break down the protection which they had so long opposed. Hereupon commenced that devious and winding search on the part of the Liberals for theatrical policies, for names that would be attractive, and policies which they could put forward as an antidote to or substitute for the

NATIONAL POLICY. Mr. Foster then dwell in succession on the policies of commercial union, continental free trade and unrestricted reciprocity which had been adopted by the Liberal party. Incidentally, he referred to Sir Richard Cartwright's famous letter to the London Economist, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce interjected an approving "Hear, hear." Mr. Foster said he was able to see that Sir Richard Cartwright's memory was still very fresh with respect to that interesting episode in his career. Proceeding, Mr. Foster pointed out that as late as the present year Sir Richard Cartwright had proclaimed himself a believer in unrestricted reciprocity with Great Britain and he went on to show that even the Liberals themselves admitted that the adoption of such a policy involved discrimination against the United States and other countries. The opponents for free trade as they have it in England had for their godfather the present leader of the government. That gentleman, Mr. Foster believed, was a theorist, who was not so much possessed of a conviction as to what was best for the country as a desire in an academic way to get a striking theory which he might propound to the country in order to catch the attention of the people, leaving himself stranded upon the

ROCKS OF A DIFFICULTY which he must meet as soon as he should launch his barque in the troubled waters. (Opposition applause.) Mr. Laurier's speeches of 1893-'94 and '95 had been based upon that theory, and Mr. Foster quoted from various addresses of the Premier in Hamilton, in Winnipeg and elsewhere in which that policy had been propounded in the strongest possible manner. Then Mr. Laurier had coupled with that doctrine the absurd and impossible accompaniment of a free reciprocity treaty with the United States, and that on the day he came to power a commission would be sent to Washington to negotiate a treaty. Then again, when the protests against his free trade theories began to pour in from his followers, he had added the modification that, although he favored free trade, yet they could not expect to attain it for the next thirty-eight or forty years. Now, after all these changes which were their policy to-day? The country knew what it was, they knew what it should be, but hon. gentlemen opposite had developed an unfortunate facility for quick and rapid changes that even to-day there was doubt in the minds of men who believed them most thoroughly as to whether or not they proposed to carry out either the one or the other of these

SEVERAL LINES OF POLICY, which they had defined in the past. The only point upon which the house could be certain was that there was to be a revision of the tariff, and that the government were going to make an attempt to obtain unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, with its necessary concomitant of discrimination against Great Britain and every other country. (Opposition applause.) He doubted if even in the history of nations there had been any instance of where a party for so long a time had conducted so blind a search, after a policy of patent inconsistencies, of crude and changing conclusions, with such utter absence of intelligent comprehension, or of well-reasoned convictions, but with the one object of patching all discontents, and of enabling his hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. MacCarthy) to spread his nets to catch unwary voters of the Conservative party. (Opposition applause.) The government had promised a change, but they could not tell the principle upon which the revision was to be carried out. They were able to declare but one thing in the face of the country, that they were favorable to unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, and that at the earliest possible moment it would be negotiated. There was a

CHANGE IMPENDING although delayed. The axe was going to fall, but no man in the government was honest enough to say where it was about to strike, and he was certain that even after their short tenure of office the government were already meeting the difficulties which much always attend the prospect of changes in the fiscal policy of the country. (Opposition applause.) Mr. Foster believed that when the government came to revise the tariff they would abide by their pledges and remove from it every vestige of protection. For twenty-four years the Liberals had been building up that sentiment, and he could not believe that the public would so far forget their pledges and their statements as to draw back. No party in England could live for a single hour that would do so, and yet there were sitting opposite to him gentlemen who were here to-day, and men who were here to-day, and men who yet said that the principle of protection was not to be taken away from the industries of Canada by the government. (Opposition applause.) It would, he held, be the worst passage ever written in the history of Canada if an opposition, after twenty-four years, refused to put into effect when they came into power the tenets which they had so long and per-

sistently advanced. Mr. Foster then dwelt upon the evils which would result to the commerce of the country from the present delay, the uneasiness and demoralization which must always attend a prolongation of uncertainty as to the disposition of the tariff. Business was in a state of suspended animation, men not knowing what the difference would be within the next few months. Mr. Laurier, he contended, should have had his tariff measure ready, and down and passed at the present session. Once his principle was defined it need not take ten days' work to settle the tariff on the basis chosen. The delay was due either to party ineptitude or to party tactics, and either of these was an adequate excuse for throwing into doubt and demoralization the vast business interests of the country for a single hour. (Loud opposition applause.) The fact was that Mr. Laurier had not settled the details of his measure, and was not prepared to make them public, and his embarrassment was due to the fact that he had spoken fair words to everyone, Liberal party promises to each class and each section of the community. (Opposition cheers.) Having shown the paralyzing effect upon the trade of the country of the uncertainty as to the course the government would pursue, Mr. Foster proceeded to describe the difference between competition in the home market and competition in

THE FOREIGN MARKET under a system of protection. Competition at home was mainly confined to those who manufactured in the country, and the conditions were nearly equal as they could possibly be. In Canada the cost of fuel, the scale of wages, capital, and the other conditions attached to manufacturing were about the same for all manufacturers. The conditions of competition were all known, and had been so strong and vigorous in Canada for years past on those plans that it had reduced the cost to the consumer in all cases to the smallest profit on the transaction over and above the cost of material and of manufacture. (Opposition applause.) On a competition known and stated and experienced for many years, the manufacturers might well lay their plans and go on with their work. If, however, the walls of protection were struck, the competition was rendered more intense and new conditions were introduced. Capital in this country might cost six per cent., but manufacturers in other countries could get it for three and a half, and the rate of interest per cent. Our manufacturers would have to meet the competition of those who only paid for their coal one-half that the former did. Abolish protection and Canadian manufacturers would have to

MEET THE COMPETITION of manufacturers in countries where the scale of wages was one-half, even one-third and one-tenth of what it was here. This removal of protection would bring our manufacturers into competition with a competition which it would be impossible for them to successfully meet, such were the conditions. There were men who toiled from early morn till late at night, although they expended the ways and means had no particular love for that kind of creature at all—(Opposition laughter and cheers)—and when there were industries in this country that in the time of one hundred million dollars of the world's production of butter, those workmen would have something to say regarding the opening of Canadian industries to the competition of the outside world without a vestige of protection. All that the leader of the government whether knowing the principle upon which he intended to proceed, it was right for him to keep the country in suspense and thereby keep the minds of those workmen hard for earning their bread. (Opposition applause.) The farmers, whose home market was increased by the National Policy, and worth to them at least forty-five million dollars, looked to the Prime Minister and desired to know whether the manufacturing industries would be struck down because, if so, that home market would be greatly lessened in value. The manufacturers were not to be deceived where it could not be withdrawn at a moment's notice desired to know if it was right, in order to suit party purposes or party tactics, they should be certain of a certain number of months or eight months longer, to the capital that was in abeyance and to the utter negation of the fresh employment of capital in producing business in uncertainty until the existing doubt and uncertainty were removed. A man might say many things during the mad rush and fever of a campaign, but when he came to his sober senses and was face to face with a monument of industry, devised by one of the wisest minds that this country ever saw, laid on the strong and broad foundations of the building up of a great Canadian nationality, endorsed by the people at successive elections, and then pronounced against in the last election, Mr. Foster did not think it was too late to appeal to the First Minister, although the instrument was ready, and although his hand was uplifted, not to strike. This, at least, they might ask him to do, but he was not prepared to lay the details of his tariff before the House there was

NO EXCUSE for not frankly stating the principle upon which he proposed to revise that tariff. (Opposition cheers.) Whatever differences prevailed amongst the government upon their questions of policy, surely there could not be the least doubt as to the principle upon which they intended to proceed in revising the tariff. But no matter what uncertainty prevailed with respect to the Liberal policy, there was no doubt as to what the Conservative policy was. Mr. Campbell—What is it? Mr. Foster—I did not think that in this day and in this Canadian parliament there was a single representative, even on the side of the House, who would look into my face at this date and try to ask what is the policy of the Liberal Conservative party. The hon. gentleman's case is perfectly hopeless if he does not know it, so I will abandon any attempt to struggle with him, and try to impress my views upon other, and, I should hope, more intelligent, members of the House. (Opposition applause.) From 1876 down to the present time there has been almost a perfect consistency, Mr. Foster went on to say, in the trade policy advocated by the Conservative party. He then twitted those Liberal members who held protectionist views, but supported a government pledged to do away with that protection, with inconsistency. Was Mr. Wood, one of the members for Hamilton, a protectionist to-day, as he was in 1877?

WHERE IS THE SULTAN?

Italy Ready to Send Troops to the Levant—Lawlessness in Madagascar.

Serious Fighting in Africa—Irish Nationalist Meeting in County Tipperary.

LONDON, Sept. 29.—Mail advices received via Marseilles from Madagascar bring further news of lawlessness there. A new company of hussars were surprised by the insurgents near Antanarivo recently and several of the former were killed. It is also stated that the insurgents attacked and pillaged several convoys. The porters in each instance were killed. It was rumored when the mail left Madagascar that thousands of Ranavalola's people surrounded Antanarivo and attacked the suburbs. The North German Gazette publishes a semi-official note to-day calling attention to the fact that the anniversary of the international parcel post falls in October. The Gazette says that the United States will join in the arrangements upon the occasion of the international postal congress at Washington next May and adds that the admission of Guatemala and Paraguay are possible. The Times correspondent at Cairo believes there is some truth in a native report that the Khedive is making a tour of Europe incognito and has taken with him a scheme of Egyptian independence, drafted by prominent native officials. "This anti-British intrigue," the Times correspondent continues, "seems more likely since the Khedive, while professing for the journey is non-political, has had an interview with M. Hanotaux, the French minister of foreign affairs." The Armenian correspondent of the Daily News says the Sultan has expelled his second wife together with a batch of palace courtiers and notables who were suspected of treason.

It is learned that during the massacre at Exaurin houses were pillaged and burned. A gun was fired as a signal for the outrages to commence. The Sultan has sent an autograph letter to Emperor William. A Constantinople dispatch says the Sultan has accepted the request contained in an Armenian address, praying for authority to convoke the national assembly for the purpose of electing a new patriarch in place of Matteo Imirlian, resigned. The Daily News correspondent at Rome is assured that negotiations are pending between Italy and England, with a view to the former holding in readiness a large body of troops to sail at a moment's notice for the Levant. Thousands of persons attended the meeting on Sunday in Tipperary in favor of amnesty to the Irish political prisoners. For the first time since the death of the Irish party, John Dillon and John Keenan appeared on the same platform. John Daly, the recently released dynamite, also spoke. The Dowager Czarina, with her children, who has been visiting her parents, the King and Queen of Denmark, has started for Libau on board the Imperial yacht Polar Star. Alderman Phillips, sheriff of the county of London, and brother-in-law of Sir Edward Lawson, principal proprietor of the Daily Telegraph, was elected Lord Mayor of London with the usual ceremony to succeed Sir Walter Wilkin. A dispatch from Salisbury, Matabeleland, says: "There has been serious fighting on the Mapepe river during the last few days. During one engagement the British force was hemmed in for ten hours by a strong force of insurgents. A piece of land 50 by 40 feet on Commissioner street, Johannesburg, changed hands for no less than \$100,000; \$2,900 a foot, front. The Czar and Czarina, Queen Victoria, the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family attended service at the church on Sunday and drove out in the afternoon. It is announced in St. Petersburg that the Russian commercial fleet trading with China, Japan and Korea will shortly be increased by five large steamers. Consuelo, Duchess of Argyll and her husband have gone to the continent for a short rest before the beginning of the house party they will give at Blenheim in honor of the visit of the Prince of Wales.

LONDON, Sept. 30.—Advices from the derwish headquarters, received at Suakin, show that disputes have broken out among the Khalifa's lieutenants, and various emirs are keeping their own followers around them. It is added that the influence of the Khalifa is shattered. The extraordinary tribunal sitting in Constantinople to-day convicted a number of Mussulmans for the murder of Armenians and sentenced them to fifteen years' imprisonment. At the same time, however, a long list of Armenians suspected of being implicated in the outbreak were condemned to death. The text of the reply of the representatives of the powers on Sept. 25, to the denial of the Turkish government reiterates the charge of complicity of Turkish officials in the massacres. It says the circular caused by Armenian provocation has less influence in guiding the mind than the latter's knowing of the immunity enjoyed by the authors of the massacres in Anatolia and adds: "The facility with which the massacres were stopped shows the power at the disposal of the authorities and the bad use made of it for two days." A dispatch from Brest says that during the recent storm on that coast two fishing boats belonging to the Gulvine were lost and fifteen fishermen drowned.

CECIL RHODES' PLECK LONDON, Sept. 29.—A petition for reinstating Cecil Rhodes as premier of Cape Colony has, according to a Cape town correspondent, been numerously signed in Johannesburg and vicinity without canvassing. Many German farmers signed. When Mr. Rhodes went to the Matoppo hills to meet the Matabele chiefs and talk of peace un-

armed he was accompanied by only thirteen men. More than a hundred young native warriors were present, all armed with Martini-Henri rifles and assegai (spears), and every white man concerned looked forward to it as involving a serious risk. Mr. Rhodes on the eve of his departure wrote several letters with his own hand, a most unusual proceeding for him. At the council, before starting, it was agreed that he should be shot by one of his own party rather than be allowed to fall into the hands of the enemy should treachery be attempted. Those who questioned Mr. Rhodes' personal courage are now silent on that point. Even John Merriman, Mr. Rhodes' strongest political opponent, has written an apologetic letter to the principal South African newspapers in which he says: "Blacks and whites in South Africa are a terrible problem enough, and will be made no easier by a war of extermination south of the Zambezi, and if the statecraft of Mr. Rhodes has saved us from this he has done good work, to which political differences in other respects should not make us blind."

FAST MAIL SERVICE. The Correspondence Submitted to the House of Commons Yesterday.

Arrangements Supposed to Have Been Made by Cartwright and Chamberlain.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Sept. 29.—The papers relating to the fast Atlantic service were presented in parliament to-day. Under date of November 21 Mr. Chamberlain writes to Lord Aberdeen that the existing service between the United Kingdom and Canada is not satisfactory from the point of view of speed. An improvement is a matter of importance to both countries. As it appears the Canadian government is unable without assistance to secure an improved service, Her Majesty's government is prepared to contribute towards the cost of providing it. Arrangements are also to be made for the acceleration of the land journey to and from Vancouver. Tenders were received for the service in June. The Dominion Government were prepared to accept the offer of the Allans for £225,000 sterling annually for ten years subject to certain modifications in the contract and on the approval of Mr. Chamberlain an imperial contribution of £75,000 sterling per annum, will be paid.

On July 10 Mr. Chamberlain informs Lord Aberdeen that a decision will not be given by him on the subject until the ministry is formed, and until also full information is forthcoming regarding the proposed modification of the Allans' offer, which may possibly make a fresh call for tenders necessary in justice to the other tenderers. During the past few weeks negotiations have been actively in progress and the impression here is that a definite announcement will be forthcoming shortly as the result of Sir Richard Cartwright's conference with Mr. Chamberlain on Friday last. Sir C. H. Tupper has accepted a retainer from some of the sealers to represent them as counsel before the Behring sea claims commission.

WILL be found an excellent remedy for sick headache's Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact. Try them.

RT. HON. MR. CHAMBERLAIN NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, British colonial secretary, and his wife, sailed for Europe to-day. SALEM, Mass., Sept. 30.—The News this afternoon publishes a story with reference to the visit of Mr. Chamberlain which has created a sensation. It is said that Mr. Chamberlain's visit to this country was largely due to the discovery by Scotland Yard detectives of the dynamite plot in which Tynan, Ivory and others are alleged to be implicated. It will be remembered that the announcement by the police of their discovery was made after Secretary Chamberlain left England. The News states that a few days after Secretary Chamberlain's arrival at Danvers, two detectives entered upon their duties and the home of Mrs. Endicott, Secretary Chamberlain's mother-in-law, guarding the premises day and night and accompanying Mr. Chamberlain wherever he went. It was said that this was the result of the discovery that a man had been seen prowling about the house at night, but one of the members of the Endicott family in conversation with a reporter said the detectives employed to watch the mansion were men supplied by the U. S. Secret Service department and were sent to Danvers on information received at headquarters at Washington.

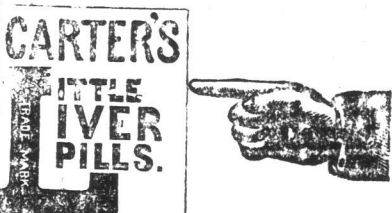
WANTED I can employ five men and three ladies to work at and around home a good thing with good salary for pushers. T. H. LINSBOTT, 49 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ont.

TORONTO, Sept. 29.—Judge Horne has sentenced Leon Lavoix, a butcher who bought stolen cattle, to six years in the penitentiary, and Joseph Cooke and William Harrison to four years, and Harvey Harrison to two years for a similar offence. OWEN SOUND, Sept. 29.—A laboring man named Samuel Penny has been arrested on a charge of advertising counterfeit money. It is alleged that Penny used the mails for the purpose of offering spurious money for sale.

WHITE STAR BAKING POWDER HAS THE LARGEST DEMAND IN CANADA THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART Is through his stomach, so if you would have your husband cheerful, loving and kind, do your baking with White Star Baking Powder WHICH ALWAYS PRODUCES PALATE-PLEASING PASTRY. C. D. RAND, D. S. WALLBRIDGE, Rand & Wallbridge, MINING BROKERS, SANDON, B. C. We beg to inform the public that we have opened an office at Sandon for the transaction of a general mining brokerage business, and shall be pleased to hear from our old friends on the Coast. Send in your orders early. The Slocan district is worthy of your best attention. RAND & WALLBRIDGE.

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