ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1913.

MR. BONAR LAW AND IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

The speech delivered last Friday by Mr. Bonar Law at a conference of Scottish Unionists in King's Hall, Edinburgh, had been awaited with keen interest as the first official statement by the Leader of the Unionist party in controversy regarding Imperial Preference and duties or food. Mr. Law set forth the Tariff Reform policy of his party in clear and unmistakable terms. Referring to the lower than that of any other country, and give the Dominmence possible short of the imposition of new duties on

"For more than a generation," continued Mr. Law, "this has repeatedly been urged upon us by all the colonies, but it has been repeatedly refused. We shall grant opponents. The Dominions have all desired and we desire, that in trade each part of the Empire should treat every other part of the Empire on different terms, and on better terms than those which we give to the rest of the world. We shall, therefore, establish the principle of preference, but we shall not be satisfied with that."

Mr. Law went on to explain that the aim of the Unionist party was to strengthen the ties which bind the Empire together. 'He strongly endorsed Mr. Borden's declaration in introducing the Naval Aid Bill last December, when he said that it was "most essential" to bring about "such a co-operation in defence and trade as to give the whole Empire an effective organization." "That," added Mr. Law, "will be the Unionist aim. We shall lves into communication with the Dominions to work out with them the best scheme for securing that object, and when it is worked out we shall present it to

Imperial Preference, as Mr. Law implies, is a policy which has been endorsed by the Prime Ministers of every Dominion and Colony in the Empire at successive Imperial Conferences, but there has been no disposition to force or influence the decision of the British people. The safe and same ground has been taken that if and when the people of the Mother Country see it to their advantage, and to the advantage of the Empire, to adopt the principle of Empire trade preferences, as Canada and the other Dominions have adopted it, they will gladly cooperate and seek to make the policy of the greatest possible mutual benefit.

This sentiment was clearly expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Conference of 1907, when he said:

"This principle we recognise. We are bound to say that though the preference which we have given has not done as much, perhaps, for British trade as the British merchant or manufacturer would like, we have told the British people at the same time that there is a way of doing more. There is the prefer-ence of mutual trade, and this is what we had in view when we adopted in 1902 the resolution of that year.
"We are all agreed at this table—those who come

from the Dependencies beyond the Seas—that we have no desire and no intention of forcing a policy which we believe in upon the British people if they are not prepared to receive it. I have stated a mo ment ago that a statement has been made—we heard it in 1902, and we hear it again in 1907—that the Canadian preference has not done as much for British trade as had been hoped for. I repeat, there is a way of doing it. It is by adopting a mutual

quently expressed his strong approval and support of Im-perial Preference. "As a Canadian," said Mr. Borden, on one occasion, "I am heartily in sympathy with the "movement. I believe that the people of Canada, of the "British Isles and of the other Colonies and Dependen-"cles, could come together on a business basis and make Similar statements by repre-It now rests with the people of the United Kingdom to accept the standing invitation of the Dominions or not as they please. It is satisfactory to note that complete unanimity prevails in the Unionist party and that the question of Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference will

be an issue in the Old Country.

Mr. Law refers to the fact that the principle of preference will be established without the imposition of new food duties. Commenting on this statement the Toronto ence will be established without the imposition of new food duties. Commenting on this statement the Toronto Mail and Empire justly points out that there are many ways in which substantial trade preference can be shown to the Dominions without imposing a British duty on foreign foodstuffs. "The decision of the Unionist party not to tax foreign foodstuffs does not preclude," says the Mail, "the possibility of a preference being given to Dominion foodstuffs. The idea of bounties in favor of Dominion wheat and other farm products has its advocates. The idea of subsidizing steamship companies for carrying wheat from the Dominions at fixed low rates of freight has also been broached. But preference of large advantage can be shown without touching foodstuffs. Of other staples imported largely by the United Kingdom Canada produces a considerable surplus, or can easily increase her production so as to have a large margin for export. Of certain semi-manufactured articles and finished products Canada could make large sales in the British market if she had the handicap of a tariff preference in her favor."

These concessions would be no small advantage to the Dominion. Ultimately the question of placing a

A CONFESSION OF GUILT.

It will be recalled that last year prior to the Saskatchewan elections, the Legislature, acting on the suggestion of the Scott Government, revised the Election Act by eliminating the provision requiring the intending voter to take eath that he was "a male British subject by birth or naturalization or not a citizen or a subject of any foreign country." Instead, the act was amended to require merely an affirmation that the intending voter was "qualified" to cast a ballot. A defence for this proceeding, put forward at the time by the Attorney General of the Province was to the effect that the election law in New Brunswick was in similar terms. This statement was shown by The Standard to be entirely incorrect. We learn from the Winnipeg Telegram that the Scott Gov. learn from the Winnipeg Telegram that the Scott Gov-ernment have now quietly restored the complete oath to the election law, which is about as clear a confession of guilt as could be required.

The elimination of that clause at the opportune mo-

ment served its purpose and was followed by the logical esuits. In the ensuing provincial campaign, residents were openly and publicly told that the oath of citizenship was not to be required or exacted, and that anyone whose name appeared on the voters' lists was entitled to vote, no matter whether "British subject, Hindu or Hottentot." And, under the latitude permitted by the removal of the oath from the Election Act, thousands of votes were polled in the interest of Liberal candidates or the Provincial Legislature contrary to the spirit o for the Provincial Legislature contrary to the spirit of even the Saskatchewan law, however in accordance with the actual letter they may have been. Certainly for the first time in Canadian history the polling of allen votes was encouraged by a Government under the British flag.

When Hon. Robert Rogers brought this flagrant violation of British voting rights to public notice, he was at action of British voting rights to public notice, he was at

nation of British voting rights to public notice, he was at once assailed by the Saskatchewan Government and its supporters in Regina and elsewhere as saying something defamatory of Saskatchewan's fair name. What Mr. Rogers did was to make public the defamatory work of the Saskatchewan Government. But invective against Mr. Rogers was the sole answer made by Premier Scott and his supporters. They were content to rest under those charges and no sincere move has been made to relieve themselves of the obloury. lieve themselves of the obloquy. The "investigation" proposed by the Government was permitted to lapse, after deal of show of righteous indignation. The Govern ment got no further along that line than to pass resolutions condemning Mr. Rogers. That was the sole at

And now Premier Scott and his Government have practically admitted the truth of those accusations by rebracheany admitted in the full of those storing the full oath to the Election Act. The restoration has been made without explanation and without an at tempt to justify the work of the Government in eliminating it last year or relieving the Government of the odium attaching to its silence under open and direct charges.

If the Scott Government did not expect to profit by the elimination of the oath, why was it stricken out? And ed Election Act the most positive proof before the publi of a brazen attempt to discredit British citizenship?

The Times makes no attempt to reply to The Standard's statement regarding Mr. Pugsley's discreditable attempt to show from the Cammell Laird correspondence that Mr. Hazen was responsible for the shipbuilding plant not being established at St. John. Mr. Pugsley's organ contents itself by remarking that "The Standard labors to the extent of more than a column to break the force of to the extent of more than a column to break the force of the statement that by returning to Cammell, Laird and Co. their deposit of \$100,000, Mr. Hazen deprived St. John of the shipyards which that great British company were ready to establish at this port, which they claim is the most suitable site for a shipbuilding plant in Eastern

The Times goes on to deal in genera Mr. Pugsley and his organs, the Times and the Telegraph, have to do is "to break the force of the statement" of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons last December Referring to this contract he said:

"I say now, that the Government in power would "I say now, that the Government in power would have been better advised if they had awarded the contract, and, had they done so, we would at the present time have under construction on the stocks in Montreal four cruisers and six destroyers."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Prime Minister at the time, and as head of the Administration would know what had

Current Comment

We may be afflicted with stupidity greater than that homo, but we must confess to inability to see how proof of ability to "hike" from New York to Albany, or from Richmond to Washington, affects, one way or the other, woman's entitlement to vote or demonstrates, to any "an arrangement by which they could give each other in trade matters certain advantages which they do not extend to other countries." Similar statements by represent the suffragist movement into ridicule than to promote the

A Drop in Telephones.
(Victoria Colonist.)

The British Government will pay the National Telephone Company \$62,578,320 for its system, this being the amount agreed upon by the arbitrators. The company claimed \$105,000,000, and the belief that the amount would be awarded sent its stock up to 162. As the hearing progressed, the price dropped to 141, falling to 109 when the decision was announced. Someone must have lost a good deal of money.

Laber's Worst Enemies.
(Sacramento Union.)
That organized labor has no foe capable of doing it such damage as the men within its own ranks is again demonstrated by the fact that "labor leaders" tendered a reception to the first of the convicted dynamite conspirators to be released on bail from the Leavenworth Fed-

"Every Winter Change to Spring."
(New York Tribune.)

After the country has built the proposed dam to turn ide the Labrador current, why shouldn't it erect a reen to keep out the cold that sometimes comes from edicine Hat? Without the fogs of Labrador or the cold Winnipeg every winter would be like this winter.

Athabasca Landing is putting in gas works and water he and is already talking to Edmonston over the long-ance telephone. No more can we speak of the Great

Sens Peur et Sans Reproche? (Calgary Herald.) Puggley does not take kindly to an invocutracts made in his department und

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NEWS IN SHORT METER

LOCAL.

Word was received yesterday that K. C. Machum, son of H. W. Machum, of this city, has been appointed to a lucrative position in the forestry department of the C. P. R. 1tr. Machum graduates in forestry from U. N. B. in the arring.

GENERAL.

Peruvian Bakers on Strike.

Lima, Peru, Jan. 28.—The Peruvian capital is today practically without bread owing to the bakers joining in the general strike of the factory employes and other workmen which began early in January.

Nova Scotia Millionaire III.

New York, N. Y., Jan. 28.—Capt.

Wm. Flemins, of Truro, N. S., said to be a millionaire and former steamship captain, is seriously iil at the Waldorf Astoria. He became very iil suddenly on Saturday, and it was difficult to find out where any of his relatives were. His sister, however, has been summoned from Nova Scotia, while a nephew, now in the south, is also on the way here.

Charged With Theft.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Jan. 28.—Accused of robbing Mrs. Mabel D. McLean, of No. 18 Kenmore Place—the adopted niece in St. John, N. B., of Mrs. Elizabeth Penelisan, of No. 79 Winter street—of \$73.00, and then skipping to Watertown, N. Y., Max Puttlitz and Violet White, a former butler and maid in the McLean home, are today locked up at police headquarters here.

Will Prevent Chinese Smuggling Will Prevent Chinese Smuggling.
Ottawa, Jan. 28.—It is reported that
the immisration department in an effort to prevent the smuggling of Chinese will try to secure as complete
identification records as possible by
the Bertillion system, including two
photographs of each Chinese, full face
and profile, records of age, occupation,
financial standing, family connection,
marital relationship, etc. Records of
body marks will also be kept, which
may assist in identification.

A Daring Bank Robbery.

Edimoton, Jan. 28.—The most daring bank robbery in the history of this city took place at half past twelve o'clock this morning in the most thickly populated part of the city. Two unknown masked men carrying a coll of rope, entered the Bank of Nova Scotta and, at the point of a gun, demanded of the only person in the building, a ledger keeper, named Clare West, that he throw up his hands. West refused and a desperate struggle ensued. Eventually the robbers manased to bind West and hurriedly proceeded to the outer safe, which they rifted of a hundred doflars. While they were continuing the search, West managed to secure his revolver and fred four shots at the men. They returned the fire hitting him in the forearm. Then they made their escape.

\$1,656.90 in Scott Act Fines.

Amherst, Jan. 26.—The town of Amherst received in Scott Act fines tast year the sum total of \$1,656.90.

The expenditure including the inspector's salary, witness fees, legal expenses, etc., totalled \$952, leaving a balance to the credit of the town of shout \$7.00

ago, ner maiden name was Louis Oits. In 1877 she married Thomas Drillon and they settled at Grand Lake, Queens county, N. B. About ten year, ago they went to Great Works and two years later moved to Brewer.

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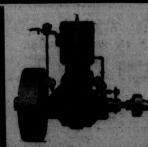
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