

## CLOSER RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

## THE STORY OF THE MOVEMENT IN CANADA.

Events in Canada that led up to Lord Salisbury's New Departure in Imperial Fiscal Policy.

Four full years have passed since the movement for closed trade relations within the Empire was started by Messrs. McCarthy and Marshall in the Dominion House of Commons, and it is with the most profound satisfaction that we note the progress which it has recently made. It will also be advantageous, briefly to sketch its history. "Mr. McCarthy's resolution was couched in the following terms. "That it would be in the best interests of the Dominion that such changes should be sought for in the trade relations between the United Kingdom and Canada as would give to Canada advantages in the markets of the Mother Country not allowed to foreign states, Canada being willing for such privileges to discriminate in her markets in favor of Great Britain and Ireland, due regard being had to the policy adopted in 1879 for the purpose of fostering the various interests and industries of the Dominion, and to the financial necessities of the Dominion." The motion of which

MR. MARSHALL, M. P. for East Middlesex gave notice about the same time, (in April 1888) was as follows: "That the establishment of mutually favorable trade relations between Great Britain and her Colonies would benefit the agricultural, mining, lumbering and other interests of the latter, and would strengthen the Empire by building up its dependencies; and that the government should invite the other Colonial governments to join in approaching the Imperial government with a view to obtaining such an agreement."

Mr. McCarthy's proposal did not reach a debate; Mr. Marshall's was discussed but did not reach a division. The subject was shortly afterwards eclipsed by matters of greater interest, at that time, to the Canadian parliament and public, such as unrestricted reciprocity and equal rights, and later by the last victory and death of Sir John Macdonald. In the electoral contest of last year, Canada fought in the position of

AN UNSUPPORTED OUTPOST of the Empire. Had she been engaged in actual warfare, instead of an election battle, and left without reinforcements from the Motherland it would have been considered disgraceful on the part of the Home government, and yet, when the commercial independence of her chief colony was in danger, England put forth no helping hand, and made no offer of trade advantages, as an offset to the proposed unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. Nevertheless the Dominion was able to resist successfully both the tempters without and the traitors within her borders. In June 1891 the

UNITED EMPIRE TRADE LEAGUE was formed in England for the furtherance of mutually advantageous trading relations among all who share allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, and the advancement of the interests of British industry and commerce "throughout the world." In August and September the Honorary Secretary of the League, Col. C. E. Howard Vincent visited Canada to advocate the principles of the league and was most successful in obtaining adherents in the principal cities of the Dominion.

Having, even then, no hope of establishing fair reciprocity in trade with our American cousin, Canada turned her eyes to the east, towards the old land, and ventured respectfully to hint that certain

TREATIES WITH FOREIGN NATIONS might be abrogated with great advantage to the Empire. The first indication of the answer she was to receive was elicited in the English House of Commons, when she was told that the Home government was "better able to judge of the commercial relations of this country even than the Houses of the Dominion parliament." But, yet, after administering this snub the president of the Board of Trade informed the House of Commons, almost in a tone of complaint, that it would not find "in these resolutions of the Dominion parliament any definite scheme proposed for the acceptance of Her Majesty's government." To obtain definite proposals by means of the combination of cuffing and complaining which Sir Michael Hicks Beach employs would certainly seem to be a hopeful undertaking. On the 22nd March last,

HON. G. E. FOSTER, Dominion Minister of Finance, delivered his budget speech, in which he took occasion to inform the Commons of

Canada of the results of the reciprocity negotiations with the United States authorities. These, in Mr. Foster's language, are as follows.

We cannot hope for any treaty with the United States, except upon these lines, viz., a treaty which will take in both natural products and manufactured goods, unlimited in its scope, of which the basis is a preferential treatment especially against Great Britain and against other countries; that that must be accompanied by a uniform tariff, and this tariff must be equalized with that of the United States of America.

These terms were such as could not be entertained by the Canadian delegates, and thus all hope of establishing more favorable trade relations with the United States was abandoned. Exactly a month afterwards

LORD KNUTSFORD'S DESPATCH of 2nd April was laid before parliament, from which it became evident that the English cabinet also refused to concede any trade favors to Canada, and very evidently declined to "catch on" to the Dominion parliament's suggestion of last session. Instead of commending Canada's desire to discriminate in favor of England and her colonies, Lord Knutsford coldly pointed out the advantage to Canada from the increase in her trade with Germany. There is an old saying used by the Germans, which it would seem appropriate to quote here as excusing past failure and inciting to renewed vigorous action: "Against stupidity even the gods contend in vain." It is not too much to say that Sir Michael Hicks Beach's remarks and Lord Knutsford's despatch were read by loyal Canadians with intense dissatisfaction. Those communications had, at the same time, the effect of convincing some members of the Dominion parliament, who had not the fear of a lord before their eyes, that the time had arrived for plain speaking.

MR. MCNEILL, M. P. FOR NORTH BRUCE, Ontario, and vice-president of the Imperial Federation League in Canada, determined to ascertain the views of the Commons of Canada on the subject and on the 25th April he moved the following resolution.

That if and when the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admits Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom upon more favorable terms than it accords to the products of foreign countries, the Parliament of Canada will be prepared to accord corresponding advantages by a substantial reduction in the duties it imposes upon British manufactured goods.

In supporting his resolution Mr. McNeill took the position of a citizen of the Empire, described its vast resources and argued throughout on the advantage of maintaining its commercial and territorial integrity. We understand that his eloquent speech is to be reproduced in pamphlet form. In the debate which followed, the resolution was supported by the government and opposed by the Liberals, but at last carried by a majority of thirty-four. The stand taken by the opposition will not be considered creditable to them by Englishmen in Canada. For years the Liberals have advocated concessions to the United States, and discrimination in their favor even to the extent of estranging the mother country. Now they vote against giving any commercial preferences to that same mother country, which has encouraged and protected them, and to which they are indebted for the land which they inhabit and the liberties they enjoy. The passage of Mr. McNeill's resolution made

A DEEP IMPRESSION IN ENGLAND, and has been of the greatest assistance to the leaders of the United Empire Trade League in their advocacy of imperial reciprocity. Indeed it has been received by the rank and file of the Unionist party in England in such a manner as to convince us of the truth of a passage in Mr. Macfarlane's essay "Within the Empire," which appeared in our columns not so very long ago. "If we want commercial union with England and the rest of the Empire, the quickest way to get it may be, not to try by solitary effort to educate the British public up to it, but to propose it. The voice of a single speaker or writer is heard but very faintly in the crowded arena at home, but the voice of Canada speaking by her parliament, the sound of her knocking at the gate might start an echo from Cornwall to Caithness, rouse the British Islands from their present condition of indifference to the agricultural and industrial interests of the Empire, and be listened to as never before."

But the principal event in this little history is

LORD SALISBURY'S DELIVERANCE, of the 18th May at Hastings in which he proclaimed that the free traders of England had gone too far. It is not too much to say that this speech was probably suggested by Canada's adop-

tion of the McNeill resolution. Indeed a member of parliament in cabling to the New York Herald refers to the recent offer of Cahada and says that that offer called for an answer, and that "Lord Salisbury as the head of the Tory party, advises the people to accept it."

The time he chooses for this action is the eve of the general election, and practically he is willing to make retaliatory duties one of the issues on which his appeal to the people is based. For a movement only 4 years old the rate of progress towards preferential trade relations is astounding. There are the best possible grounds for expecting the accomplishment of this object within three years from the present time.

But at this critical period the friends of union should not be idle and content to rest on their present laurels. It is not unlikely that

CANADA'S EXAMPLE may be followed by the other self-governing colonies, and every effort should be put forward to induce them to do so. It appears to us also that it would be timely and advantageous if Conservative members of parliament were, in the language of Mr. Marshall's resolution above quoted, to urge that the government should invite the other colonial governments to join in approaching the Imperial government with a view to obtaining an agreement of closer commercial intercourse. About three years ago our government actually appointed commissioners to Australia for this purpose. Now is the time to send them; to strike the iron while hot and make a bold move for the inauguration of a British Commercial Union.

## LORD DUNRAVEN ON CANADA'S OFFER.

A Return Moved For and Agreed to by the Imperial Government.

In the Imperial House of Lords, on the 28th ult., Lord Dunraven moved for a copy of the motion agreed to by the Canadian Parliament, April 25, regarding preferential trade with the United Kingdom. He said that he considered the motion as a distinct proposal for reciprocity with every part of the Empire. This was the first time such a proposal had been advanced by a self-governing colony in practical shape. He thought the suggestion should be attentively received by Great Britain. Lord Salisbury had made a very practical suggestion at the beginning of the session when he proposed that the colonies should be invited to confer with the home Government on the subject. This resolution was an expression of Canada's readiness to give Great Britain a preference in her markets if Great Britain gave her an equal preference in hers. It was perfectly obvious that the preference that Canada suggested would be of an enormous advantage to Great Britain. It would greatly increase the latter's export trade with Canada and would expand her manufacturing industries. But as Great Britain levied no duties on food imports, it would be necessary to impose an ad valorem duty upon them, purchasing a reduction of the duty imposed on British manufactured goods by Canada by imposing a lower duty on Canadian raw food products imported into Great Britain than that levied on similar imports from other countries. A duty on food products would only increase the price of the loaf a farthing and would give an immense impetus to corn growing in the British Empire.

Lord Balfour, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, replied that the matter was of great importance to the House of Lords and to the country. The Government agreed to accept Lord Dunraven's motion because it was obvious that Parliament should know officially to what specific result the resolution aimed; but hoped it was clearly understood that he did not agree with Lord Dunraven's arguments or the policy foreshadowed in Canada's resolution; it would be impossible for Great Britain to free herself of her foreign engagements without losing advantages of great value to her. If she attempted to give Canada the preference on certain articles it must involve her in a policy of protection. This would be disadvantageous to Great Britain. He did not mean protection of her own agricultural interests, but the protection of the products of Canada.

Lord Dunraven's motion was agreed to.

## Smith's Emigration Agency.

London Truth makes a damaging attack on "Smith's Manitoba Emigration Agency," 104 High Holborn, London. The office was formerly that of the "Central London Emigration Agency." Truth declares the office to be an imposition.

## PROGRESS OF THE U. E. T. L. MOVEMENT.

Adoption of the Preferential Resolution by Conservatives—Mr. McNeill's Resolution.

The first annual report of the United Empire Trade League, as adopted by the executive, has been issued by Colonel Howard Vincent M. P., the honorary secretary. It states that the membership now numbers 5,120, and that in addition to the names of the Premiers of Cape Colony, Queensland, and Newfoundland, and of many other leading colonial statesmen being included in the list of vice-presidents, 300 members of colonial and Imperial Legislatures and many Parliamentary candidates have joined the council.

In accordance with the injunction of Lord Salisbury, "that the league should spare no pains in the effort to impress their principles upon their fellow-men," upwards of 30 public meetings have been held, at nearly all of which was carried the resolution adopted by the last convention of the National Union of Conservative Associations.

"That the principles advocated by the United Empire Trade League favoring the extension of commerce upon a preferential basis throughout all parts of the British Empire will be of the highest individual and collective advantage, and, further, that the provisions of any treaties of commerce imposing limitations upon the full development of trade between the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire should be abrogated with all possible despatch."

Four debates were also raised in the Imperial Parliament and two in the Canadian Legislature. The League has issued 100,000 pamphlets, leaflets, atlases, and commercial diagrams, for which there is a great demand. It is proposed to hold on June 23, an Empire Trade Convention and banquet.

The executive of the United Empire Trade League have cabled their congratulations to Mr. Alexander McNeill, upon the adoption by the Canadian House of Commons of his motion declaring the willingness of Canada to admit British goods on more favorable terms than foreign goods, as soon as a preference is shown by the United Kingdom for the productions of the Empire over those of countries excluding her manufactures by prohibitory duties.

It is felt by the League that this resolution marks a notable advance in the direction of Empire trade, and the hopes entertained that Australia and South Africa will follow the example of the Dominion. The resolution is considered the more generous in the face of the recent despatch of Lord Knutsford, which has caused much irritation amongst the advocates of "Empire trade."

## Differential Duties in Favor of Colonial Produce.

"Greater Britain," an English publication, contains an article on "The commercial union of the British Empire," by J. X. Perrault, of Montreal. The writer advocates a five per cent. differential duty upon foreign goods going into the British market in competition with those of the colonies. The Ottawa Citizen, commenting on this, says: "Of course, according to the traditional English view, this would be merely a measure of colonial protection no whit more acceptable than the protection of English home industries, a principle in complete disfavor. At the same time the attitude of Lord Brassey, Lord Roseberry, Lord Dunraven, Lord Salisbury and the London Times show that thoughtful Englishmen are becoming conscious of the futility of considering the organization of the Empire as a bare problem in political economy. This narrow view must be and is breaking down."

## English Relations With Canada.

A London cable says: Canada's fiscal relations with England were discussed at a large meeting of the city branch of the Imperial Federation League today. The committee was authorized to submit an outline of a scheme of Commercial Union of the Empire based as nearly as practicable upon Free Trade throughout the Empire. Several leading men of commerce urged that Canada cease her attentions to the United States, and lower her tariff against England. They declared that Lord Salisbury's speech last week, voiced England's wish to give the colonies favored treatment.

Sir Charles Tupper made an emphatic speech. He declared that he had high authority for the statement that the McKinley tariff to hamper and break down the farmers of Canada and compel Canada to enter the Union. England had tried conciliation too long. She should regain the means of returning favor by favor, by adopting a preferential tariff. Sir Charles was much cheered.

## Professional.

HENDERSON & BEAMENT,  
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES,  
ETC., ETC.  
56 Sparks Street, - - - Ottawa.  
MONEY TO LOAN.

H. A. PERCIVAL,  
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, ETC.,  
Ontario Chambers, - - - Ottawa.  
MONEY TO LOAN.

WILLIAM G. ROCHESTER,  
ENGRAVER, LITHOGRAPHER, ETC.,  
205 Wellington St., Ottawa.

Designs and Estimates Furnished on Application for Bill Heads, Cheques, Receipts, and all kinds of Commercial Work.

F. H. MARTELOCK,  
Baker, Confectioner and General Crocer,  
NEW EDINBURGH

177 Creighton St.,  
FLOUR AND FEED OF ALL KINDS  
KEPT IN STOCK.

BROWN, EDMONDSON & Co.

FOR THE BEST AND CHEAPEST  
BOOTS, SHOES, TRUNKS, ETC.,  
61 Rideau Street - - Ottawa.

WM. HOWE,  
MANUFACTURER OF  
White Lead, Zinc White, Putty,  
Flat Brick Paints,  
Colors, Dry, in Oil and Japan.

READY-MIXED PAINTS.

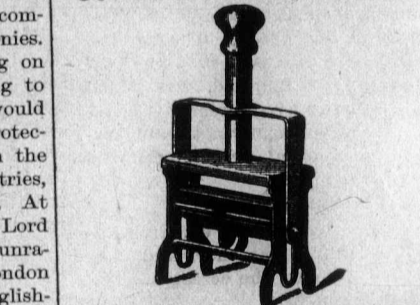
IMPORTER OF  
Linseed, Cod, Seal, Lard, Wool,  
Castor,  
Olive and Machine Oils,  
Turpentine, Varnishes Japans and  
Brushes,  
Painters' Supplies, Artists' Colors  
and Materials.

Plain and Decorative Paper Hangings and  
Interior Wall Decorations.

HOWE BLOCK, OTTAWA.

Pritchard & Andrews,

GENERAL ENGRAVERS,  
175 SPARKS ST.



A MARVEL OF CHEAPNESS!  
"THE MIDGET"  
SELF-INKING STAMP,  
WITH RUBBER DIE, INK AND BOX COMPLETE FOR

75 CENTS

GET YOUR  
WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELRY  
REPAIRED BY

D. J. MacDONALD,  
207 Wellington St., - - Ottawa.  
(NEAR BANK STREET)  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

Orders taken for  
Painting, Whitewashing,  
Kalsomining, etc.  
Estimates furnished if required.

Alfred Reynolds,  
378 Nepean Street, Ottawa.

JOB PRINTING  
at the  
"PATENT REVIEW OFFICE,"  
135 Sparks Street, - Ottawa.

Send for Estimates.