

ENGLISH LEADER'S VIEWS

London, England, February 6. — In the course of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne in the house of commons, the proposed reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States came up for discussion. Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the opposition, said that the agreement, if carried out, would have far-reaching results, and must lead to disastrous consequences. "After thirty years," he said, "of vain endeavor to induce statesmen here to see eye to eye with them, Canadian statesmen have turned toward the south and entered into an agreement with another great country. If this policy reaches its fruition I shall look upon it as a great disaster."

Premier Asquith, in his reply, said he was perfectly certain that the imperial government could do nothing to prevent the natural trend of events. A levelling of the tariff walls between Canada and the United States, he declared, was inevitable.

In the house of lords, Lord Lansdowne, leader of the opposition, said that Canada's proposed treaty was the most momentous departure in the history of that country's relations to the British Empire. It meant a considerable diminution, possibly, of the preference within the British Empire and of the advantages enjoyed by British trade under the preference now given by Canada. It meant also the deflection of Canada's wheat supplies to the United States. The whole history of the Empire, he feared might be altered if the great dominions were encouraged to develop not along national and imperial lines, but according to geographical conditions.

The Earl of Crewe, colonial secretary and leader of the government minority in the house of lords, mentioned the agreement briefly. He said he saw in it nothing that would have any effect upon the ties between Canada and the Mother Country. Speaking with reference to the coming imperial conference, he expressed the hope that the gathering would be less strenuous socially than its predecessors.

Dr. Hinger, in the commons, said that having spent half his life in the colonies, he profoundly regretted that the reciprocity agreement was not mentioned in the king's speech. He urged immediate and drastic action before the ratification of the pact, otherwise the future historian might describe the negotiations of the treaty as the first act of the drama of the passing of the British Empire.

Blames British Politicians

London, February 6.—Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, at a Unionist dinner, said the Canadian statesmen had lost in the reciprocity negotiations. "The people I am disposed to blame, the people I blame, are the British politicians, who, decade after decade, have turned a deaf ear to our Canadian brethren," said Mr. Balfour. "Canadians not merely preached preference, but practiced it. We enjoyed it, profited by it, gained by it, but gave nothing in return save the empty expression of goodwill. The result is what had often been prophesied. The fault does not lie with Canadians, but lies with Westminster. However, while there is life there is hope. The party in Canada maintaining the old policy is still strong. Our primary duty is to let all those agreeing with us on either side of the Atlantic know that our faith is unwavering and unchanged, and that we do not mean to abandon the imperial ideal."

E. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., following Mr. Balfour, said none blamed the Canadians "who turned to a nation wiser than ourselves, whose politicians were more courteous."

Ramsay Macdonald, in the commons, said the imperial conference ought to be a real beginning in an imperial understanding between the Mother Country and the colonies. He denounced Balfour's statement about the disastrous consequences of the reciprocity treaty. If this was the statement of a "Big Englander," personally in the interests of the Empire, goodwill and national unity, he would wish inclusion among the "Little Englanders."

The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually, be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the widest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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NORMAL FOR BRANDON

Brandon, Feb. 6.—A sensation was created here this morning when the announcement was made that the provincial government had closed a deal for the purchase of a splendid site for a new normal school to be built here this year. The site purchased is occupied by two blocks between Tenth and Twelfth streets, and Queens and Hill avenues, just east of the fair grounds. The purchase price is about \$17,000, and the building and equipment will cost \$50,000. The site is on the Patmore estate, one of the best reed properties in the city, for many years, and is a most desirable situation. The new school will be erected on a pretty hill facing the north, while the site seems large for a building, the extra land has been secured to permit of ornamental grounds. While plans for the new school have not yet been decided upon, it is stated that the building will be one of the best equipped institutions of the kind in the Dominion. It will contain, as well as the regular school rooms, a large drill hall and spacious quarters for manual training and domestic science on the grounds. There will also be erected a small one-room model of a rural school, in which young teachers will be given practical experience in school work.

NO MORE TRIBUTE

Editor Guide:—The manufacturers are like the people of Algiers, they expected all people who entered their harbors to pay tribute to them. It is time the tillers of the soil, like the American admiral, advise them that "we have millions for defense and not another cent for tribute." The stock argument of the manufacturers is mostly that if the tariff is lowered all manner of manufacturers will go to smash and chaos reign everywhere. Ever since the time government was instituted (for the manufacturers) the farmers have been paying tribute and still they have been able to exist. The manufacturers ought to be able to live on a lower tariff when they are not asked to pay tribute.

J. M. GILBERTSON
Gilby, Alta.

HOMESTEADS FOR WOMEN

Editor, Guide:—I think there ought to be a law passed that any lady over 18 years of age should be entitled to a homestead, 160 acres the same as a man has. As there are so many families of girls in the East that can hardly make a living, whereby if they came up here where they would find some way of improving it. In fact a lot of the lonely bachelors would help them and they would help the bachelors and it would help a lot of the old men in the East if their daughters could take land as they are getting too old to support them. It would save a lot of time and money with the girls and boys.

JAS. E. BUNCE,
Unity, Sask.

CONSERVATIVE ELECTED

At a by-election held in Russell (Man.), constituency, F. Y. Newton, Roblin, Conservative, was elected over William Valens, Binscarth, Liberal, by a majority of 251.