

that from Albany he had spent a week's holiday in New York, he had no cypher with him, that he wrote a full account by letter from Albany, and that the agreement had been reached very swiftly.

Taft was up against the apparent necessity of levying the U.S. maximum tariff on Canadian imports, and was most anxious to be provided with an excuse for not taking a step, which, had it been taken, would have been followed by results most damaging to the friendly relations between the two countries.

How to provide a Golden Bridge for Taft was the problem. The talk between Fielding and Taft occupied the greater part of a Sunday. In the course of this talk Fielding confided to Taft that the Sabbatarians of Canada would probably blame him for attending to public interests on Sunday. Taft's reply was to refer to the parable of the man who was not prevented by Sabbatarian principles from lifting the ass out of the pit. Fielding was much too polite to push the analogy home. He was pulling a very fat, heavy ass out of the pit, and it was just as impossible to obtain the permission of the Imperial Government for him to accomplish this rescue work, as it was for the proverbial Indian Stationmaster to obtain the permission of the Calcutta Government to kill the tiger who was eating the passenger. . . (1)

There were times when Grey's interest in Canadian affairs seemed almost too impetuous and independent, especially in his comments and suggestions to his friends or superiors in the Colonial Office, and also in his suggestions and proddings of the Prime Minister. He had to be reminded that he was not like an executive Governor of a dependent, non self-governing colony, but was a constitutional Governor General in a self-governing Dominion, who must at all times consult with the Prime Minister and not dominate him. Nor was he to accept too readily, as representative of the Imperial Government, measures proposed by the Canadian Government with which he was personally in sympathy, as implying that his own

(1) Ibid. (Doc.004326-7).