

LIBERALS OF VICTORIA ENDORSE RECIPROCITY

Mass Meeting Last Evening Unanimously Adopts Resolution in Support of Policy—Several Convincing Speeches.

"RESOLVED: That the Liberals of Victoria, in public meeting assembled, unanimously endorse the proposed tariff agreement between Canada and the United States."

(From Friday's Daily.)

In these words the great mass meeting of Liberal electors, held in Broad street hall last evening, endorsed the reciprocity proposals of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government.

Mr. Ross went into the question very fully, giving first a most interesting historical review of the attempts made since long before Confederation by both political parties to secure a trade agreement with the United States.

F. A. Pauline, who occupied the chair, dealt with reciprocity as it would benefit British Columbia, and Mr. Brewster followed with special reference to the immense advantage which would accrue to the fishing and hunting industries of this province.

Mr. Drury reminded those who raised the familiar cry of "disloyalty" that Great Britain has herself always been the best customer of the United States.

The hall was well filled and the several speeches were followed with close attention, the points made being applauded vigorously.

The chairman explained that the meeting had been called by the Liberal Association to afford the Liberals of Victoria an opportunity to express their approval of the latest great achievement of the Laurier government, the negotiation of a reciprocity arrangement with the United States.

The people of British Columbia had lately been told by the minister of agriculture of their province that they had to import annually over fourteen million dollars worth of farm produce.

On all of these articles the Dominion collected a duty, so that the great advantage which would mean a material reduction in the cost of living.

Sir Donald Mann had told his Conservative friends in the past not to be afraid of reciprocity; that it would do them no harm.

It was claimed that the agreement was going to injure the lumber trade of British Columbia. But the head of the second largest mill in the world, Mr. Present, stated that the agreement would be of great and lasting advantage to the timber industry of British Columbia.

We were told, too, that it would be disastrous to the fruit industry, but when we came to the responsible people interested in fruit-raising they told us that there would be no such thing as a disadvantage.

It was sometimes urged by opponents of the Liberal government that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had forgotten his free trade profession and to have done nothing to advance that policy.

There was first the British preference, which was one step towards free trade, and now here was another. Still other speakers were taken one at a time, and wisely taken, so that while Canada would tend towards free trade she should not endanger her manufacturing industries.

H. C. Brewster, who spoke first and briefly, as he had to attend to his legislative duties at the night sitting of the House, was warmly cheered on rising.

He pointed out that there was only one thing in which reciprocity could be injuriously discussed—that the Canadian government made trade arrangements for the whole of Canada. It was not the interests of British Columbia that were to be considered; not the interests of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, but any trade arrangement must be in the whole country from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia and in the interests of every citizen of Canada.

To discuss reciprocity intelligently we must recognize that the Dominion is the only one to be considered, and if we did not accept that position and if this province as a province simply got in and said that reciprocity was going to injure some particular industry in this section—that for the benefit of Canada it was a fine measure, and that such and such was to be done locally then we must be against the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number—it is the duty of each and every citizen to discuss it, and to discuss it in the interests of the whole of Canada. Older citizens should know what a large number of material prosperity had been secured in New Brunswick under the reciprocity treaty. No Conservative would agree to test this in any way, but it is a fact that the reciprocity treaty has done more for that province. He had no doubt the same was true of the other provinces down by the sea. Mr. Brewster was one who is intimately acquainted with the fishing industry in this province, dealing with the effect of the agreement on that industry, went on to say:

British Columbia is asked by its premier to look at this matter from the standpoint simply of British Columbia, although he had to admit in his speech yesterday that the whole of Canada must feel the good effect of that arrangement.

In spite of his gloomy forebodings regarding the effect of reciprocity on the industry in which I am interested, I tell you that the fishing industry given the market which is going to be one of the fishing industries of the future.

The fear expressed by some that our fisheries are on the decline is sheer nonsense. We are kept out of the market by those from the American side who fish halibut in American bottoms, bring it to terminal points in Canada and ship it to the United States, chiefly to the east. We are kept out of that market.

"In all previous negotiations for reciprocity the Americans used to want the right to come in and fish on the coast of our own people in return for admitting our fish to their States."

He also emphasized the point that consumers in this city, as elsewhere, are now using a great deal of American produce and paying duty on it all.

How, then, was the remedy of this duty going to make less loyal citizens of Victorians?

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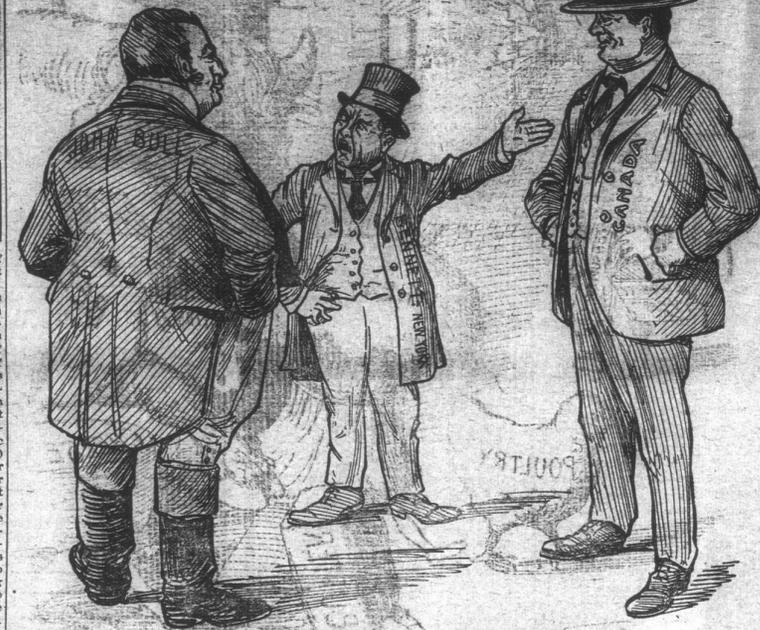
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THE FOOLISHNESS OF SOME AMERICANS. MR. BENNETT, OF NEW YORK—Mr. Bull, if you have no objections I should like to adopt this kid. JOHN BULL—Well, the boy's of age. Ask him.

MEXICAN REBEL LEADER IN FIELD

Madero Commands Insurgents Who Are Moving Toward Chihuahua

(Times Leased Wire.)

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 17.—Francisco I. Madero, Mexican rebel leader, has taken the field, and to-day, personally commanding the insurgent forces, is at Guadalupe preparing to march into Chihuahua, according to a courier who arrived here to-day.

It was reported that his forces include 42 Americans under an ex-sergeant of Philippine scouts with two machine guns. Generals Orozco, Blanco and Castillas are said to have effected a junction of their commands at Ascension last night and started for Chihuahua, 1,000 strong, prepared to join Madero.

General Navarro, the federal commander who raised the rebel siege of Juarez, is reported to have dispatched 600 men and a machine gun to Guadalupe this morning with orders to retake the city. According to the courier, Madero planned to leave Guadalupe early to-day for Chihuahua.

General Jos. Duncan is to-day in command of the American border forces.

There was little comment when the committee reported unfavorably on the Bennett resolutions.

London, Feb. 17.—The coronation contingent of 747 men, which will sail on June 2 from Quebec for England, will probably be accompanied by the Winnipeg Highland regiment under the command of Colonel Thompson.

He some time ago offered to take over the regiment at his own expense and the militia department is now making arrangements to have the Highlanders to go at the same time as the Coronation contingent. While in England the regiment will be the guests of one of the British regiments.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17.—The Oregon whipping post yesterday was abolished by the senate. Buchanan's bill doing away with this method of punishing wife beaters was passed in the senate over the governor's veto by a vote of 22 to 8. The bill was passed in the house Monday, and now becomes a law without the governor's approval.

UNIONIST MAJORITY REDUCED. London, Feb. 17.—The result of Horncastle division of Lincolnshire, by-election yesterday was: Weir (Unionist), 4,385; Lifford (Liberal), 4,388. The Unionist majority was 20 in January, 1910, and 64 in December, 1910.

ENGLISH CAPITAL FOR MINES. Representatives of English Capital Negotiating for Kootenay Gold Mines Property.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 17.—A resident representative of large English capitalists residing here has been negotiating for the purchase of the Granite-Poorman mining property near Nelson, B. C. This property is now owned and operated by Kootenay Gold Mines Ltd., a company composed chiefly of Nelson and Vancouver people. The Granite-Poorman mines have been a steady producers for about five years, and good profits have been earned, while the mine has been extensively developed.

The equipment of the property is of the best character, including a 20-stamp mill which operates 24 hours per day. Lord Aylmer is president of the company, and the directors consist of well-known Nelson and Vancouver men. The company's authorized capital is \$200,000.

BURNED TO DEATH. Two Children Perish in Home During Absence of Parents.

(Special to the Times.)

St. Cyrille de Lot, Que., Feb. 17.—Two children of Mr. and Mrs. J. Langlois were burned to death when their home was destroyed yesterday. The father was at work and Mrs. Langlois went to visit a neighbor leaving the children, aged two and four years respectively, alone in the house.

NO SYMPATHY WITH BENNETT

RESOLUTIONS DEFEATED AT TAFT'S REQUEST

President Shows He Will Not Tolerate Annexation Vapors

(Times Leased Wire.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The House committee on foreign affairs, on President Taft's request, to-day voted down 9 to 1, Congressman Bennett's two resolutions referring to Canadian annexation.

President Taft urged that the resolutions be killed in the hope of allaying the excitement in Canada and England caused by Champ Clark's annexation speech, and by Bennett's resolutions. The president believes that the smoothing of Bennett's resolution will have the effect of smoothing a way to the Canadian parliament for ratification of the reciprocity agreement.

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ELECTRIC POWER AND LIGHT FOR FARMERS

Scheme Will Revolutionize Agriculture in Province of Ontario

(Special to the Times.)

Toronto, Feb. 17.—Hon. Adam Beck, chairman of the hydro-electric commission, will introduce in the legislature a bill empowering municipalities to contract with the hydro-electric commission for power for rural use. The cost of the supply is to be met by charges against the lands of the farmers and others who take the power for agricultural use. It will be twenty-four horse power and a farmer with a two-horse power motor will be able to do everything about his farm, save thresh his grain and plough his fields. Not only can the farmer light his house and barns but he can heat them with the current. His water supply can be pumped at night and every front gate along the road will have a light.

The bill providing for this scheme which will revolutionize Ontario agriculture, is understood to be ready and its presentation by Hon. Mr. Beck will be one of the events of the session.

THE POPE IMPROVES. Rome, Feb. 17.—Pope Plus' health is greatly improved to-day, and for an hour this morning he was permitted to leave his bed. The congestion in his throat has been relieved, and should no further untoward symptoms develop his recovery is expected soon.

Cardinals Rampolla and Rinaldi are suffering from influenza, the former being in a serious condition.

CANADIAN TROOPS AT CORONATION Contingent Will Probably Be Accompanied by Winnipeg Highlanders

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OAK BAY AND CITY AGREED

DECISION RENDERED AT TO-DAY'S SESSION

Victoria Must Pay Entire Cost of Pipe Line When Sooke is Ready

(From Friday's Daily.)

The private bills committee at a session held this morning came to a decision on the terms of an agreement between the corporation of the city of Victoria and the municipality of Oak Bay relative to a settlement of the water problem confronting the neighboring municipality, and the committee will now report to the legislature recommending that this agreement be incorporated in the bill.

At adjournment two days ago there were three points in the draft agreement then under consideration still in dispute, and this morning, after a long session in private deliberation, during which the water commissioner, James L. Raymer, and J. Herwick MacGregor, acting reeve of Oak Bay, were frequently summoned for consultation, the committee rendered decision, the points of the settlement being as follows:

1. The pressure to be sufficient to supply the whole of the Oak Bay municipality except Gonzales Hill.

2. The price of Sooke Lake water to be agreed upon by both municipalities.

3. When the city supplies Sooke Lake water it is to pay the whole of the initial cost of the Oak Bay pipe and the cost of construction.

Two other clauses were inserted—one suggested by Mr. Bodwell that there should be no derogation from the existing inter-municipal agreement, and the other that neither of the municipalities during the term of this agreement shall apply to the provincial House over any matter in connection with water without the consent of the other.

The connection with clause one, dealing with the question of pressure, may be explained that it has been tentatively agreed between the two municipalities that in order to reach the levels requiring a service at Gonzales Hill, the two parties to the agreement shall defray equal shares of the cost of installing an electric pump.

It is also stipulated in the agreement that the present arrangement whereby Oak Bay gets a supply of Elk Lake water from the city shall continue until Sooke Lake water has been supplied. The effect of this is said to leave it optional with Oak Bay to take or reject Esquimalt water.

The clause providing that neither of the municipalities shall during the life of the agreement make any further application to the legislature over water was not assented to by Mr. Bodwell, acting for Oak Bay, he taking the position that such application is unconstitutional in that circumstances may arise which might make it absolutely essential that such applications be made.

After the committee had rendered its decision a verbal statement relative to the position of Saanich in the face of the agreement was made by J. A. Alkman, on behalf of the municipality, and F. A. McDiarmid made verbal objection to the language in which some of the clauses were clothed—both of which statements the committee promised to give serious consideration.

The net result of the negotiations between the representatives of the two municipalities which have culminated in this agreement is interpreted as an almost complete victory for Oak Bay, in the sense that the committee has practically upheld its case on all essential points.

The agreement will now have to be passed upon by the legislature, when the private bills committee reports the bill to the House, which will no doubt be done immediately.

At this evening's special meeting of the city council, the city solicitor will report the result of the matter to that body, and the final steps will be taken to ratify the agreement.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT. San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 17.—Judge Willis yesterday sentenced John D. Knapp to life imprisonment in San Quentin for the murder of Julia Carey in San Francisco last November. Knapp beat the woman to death and dragged the corpse to a vacant lot, where it was found by the police.

Kaiser to Visit London in May

(Special to the Times.)

London, Feb. 17.—The recent announcement that Emperor William would attend the ceremony of the unveiling of the national memorial to Queen Victoria on May 16, was confirmed officially to-day. The news is welcomed by Britishers, among whom His Majesty is very popular. He will be accompanied by Emperor Augustus, and they will be the guests of King George and Queen Mary for several days following the unveiling.

SPEAKER LOWTHER ATTACKED. London, Feb. 17.—An uproar was caused in the House of Commons to-day when Ian Malcolm (Conservative) read a letter written by Josiah Wedgwood (Abolitionist) to Laurence Ginnell (Nationalist), in which Wedgwood supported Ginnell's charges of "Czarism" against Speaker Lowther. Wedgwood declared that Lowther was an enemy of the proposed land tax, although as Speaker he was supposed to be unbiased. Malcolm demanded an investigation of Wedgwood's charges.

NEW RAILWAY REGULATION. Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The long and short haul provision of the new interstate commerce law became effective to-day by order of the interstate commerce commission.

TRADE COMMISSIONER DEAD. Manchester, Feb. 17.—P. B. Macnamara, trade commissioner, died suddenly here last night.

CHINA WILL RESIST DEMANDS

IS NOT LIKELY TO RESORT TO ARMS

Looks to Intervention of Foreign Powers to Prevent Clash With Russia

(Times Leased Wire)

Peking, Feb. 17.—Semi-official opinion expressed here to-day is that the threat of Russian military demonstrations against China in the Mongolia and Manchuria provinces is intended at this time in order to take advantage of the plague and famine conditions which at present are crippling China.

While no official statement has yet been made, it is intimated that China will resist the Russian invasion by every means short of cannon, trusting that the intervention of foreign powers will prevent a clash.

Russia's determination to act just at this time is viewed as a last desperate attempt to force on China a renewal of the treaty of 1881, which expires next month. For nearly a year negotiations on this subject have been in progress and China has shown great unwillingness to submit to Russia's demands.

According to the terms of the expiring treaty Russia has certain trade advantages in all three provinces, and she insists that these shall be continued. China, while declaring that the terms of the 1881 treaty have been observed, is reluctant to renew the convention on the same terms. It is to force compliance with this demand that the Czar has made his threat.

Various considerations, it is pointed out here, may intervene to balk Russia's scheme. One is the attitude of Japan. While no expression has yet come from Tokio on the situation, it is known that Japan is watching the developments closely, and it is not beyond the possibility that she will stand idly by and see too great an extension of Russian influence in Manchuria and Mongolia without a stiff protest.

Another feature of the situation which may have great effect is the danger of an anti-foreign uprising. General dissatisfaction already exists in China over the cessation of certain trade and railway construction rights to foreigners, and it is feared that if Russia forces the renewal or extension of the treaty of 1881 by force of arms, dissemination of this intelligence throughout China will be followed by outbreaks, perhaps more serious than the late Boxer rebellion.

Warnings Sent to Russia. London, Feb. 17.—All the European chancelleries to-day have sent warnings to Russia to proceed cautiously with her military demonstrations against China. British newspapers are particularly apprehensive that Russia's move may result in the gravest consequences.

The Times says: "Under present conditions in China any threat of forcible action by a foreign power may result in far-reaching consequences. It is hoped that Russia will ponder well the possible results before proceeding against China."

British statesmen, although none would be quoted directly, make no secret of their fear that a great anti-foreign outbreak in China might follow a demonstration by Russia.

Views at Washington. Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—The state department here to-day is in hourly expectation of an appeal from China for help against the menace of Russian invasion.

Pending Russia's statement of the case, the sympathy of the state department is with China, and it is not improbable that the United States may intervene. It is regarded here as a considerable of the Czar to try to bully China into signing a treaty when half of the country is being depopulated by famine and plague.

Will Send Ultimatum. St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—It is semi-officially announced here to-day that unless China yields to Russia's demands before March 1, an ultimatum will be sent. Minister Korotovitz has been instructed to deliver to China the following note:

"Recent negotiations have convinced the Russian government that China does not wish to abide by the provisions of the treaty of 1881. These have been ignored by China or interpreted by China in a way not in accord with their spirit or their letter. The Imperial government is convinced that with such an attitude on China's part a continuance of friendly relations is impossible. While anxious for the maintenance and consolidation of these relations, Russia finds it necessary to make the foregoing declaration and to request China to confirm without delay her agreement to observe the points contained for by the Imperial government."

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OAK BAY WATER PROBLEM

Desires to Appeal Against Agreement

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