Much Talk on Government Side. **But Little Business Progress**

Hon. Mr. Paterson's Statistics Imperfeetly Connected With His British Preference Argument.

McClure of Colchester Twits Conservatives With Being Poolish Enough to Believe the Liberals Would Carry Out Their Tariff Pledges.

of its almost a

Lostar Corner.

OTTAWA, March \$1.-"That this house is of opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in and commerce between these ocuntries and would thus promote and resintain the unity of the empire, and that nothing which falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered as final and satisfactory."

Sir Charles Tupper moves it as an emendment to ways and means, and his party stands by it. The mutual preferential trade policy, as Sir Charles Tupper showed in his able presentation of the case yesterday, is not new and neverthas been a proposition from Canada and other colonies destring British people to tax themselves for cur tenefit. It is not proper to describe it as a demand for a quid pro que. On the centrary the policy criginated in the mother country and was designed for the benefit of Great Britain as well as the rest of the empire. It was adopted by the conservetive mejority in Canada in 1892 and afterwards was endersed by the chamters of commerce of some of the principal commercial centres in Great Britain. It was received with favor, if not endorsed in its exact terms, by leading Prinish statesmen. The mer who govern Great Britain never scouted or made light of the proposition until the day that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, having gone to England pledged to support that policy, declared that Canada cid not want it. Down to that hour the statesmen of Great Britain never failed to consider it as a serious proposition worthy of favorable consideration. It led to the remarkable address of Mr. Chamberlain to the congress of chambers of commerce of the empire. It led to the strong and inst-iring address which he delivered to the Canada Club. It developed such strength that, at the gathering of al the chambers of commerce of the empire. Sir Charles Tupper's motion was only defeated by a majority of 13, and if the Australian and South African representatives had voted according to the instructions given them by their chambers of commerce the motion would have been carried. At the great conference of delegates from the governments of Australia, New Zealand Fouth Africa, Canada and Great Britein, held in Ottawa in 1893, a motion in favor of an imperial preferential

Never was there an imperial move ment which made such progress even in England in so short a time. Though it was opposed by the Cobden Club people and a cortain free trade element, it was regarded as one of the problems of the time by the ruling statesmen of England. To say that the British people would never consent to tax their provisions in the interests of an imperial arrangement is to say that Mr. Chamberlain did not understand the English people when he said that they would not blankly refuse to impose a tax on foreign grein, meat, sngar and wool if by so doing they could establish such a zollvenein as was proposed. For Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends to declare that no British statesman ever held cut the hope of such a policy is to convict Sir Wilfrid Laurier of deception and frischord, when he himself de clared in Canada that Mr. Chamber lain had made such a proposition, and that he himself was in a better position to accept it, and as favorably disposed towards it, as Sir Charles Tupper had ever been.

policy was adopted.

Against these historical facts, against the premier's own declaration on which his promise was based against the whole progress of events from 1890 to 1897, the present ministers of Canada have only to quote a letter from the Duke of Devonshire, saying that he never offered Sir Wilfrid Laurier a preference in the British market. No human being ever was such a fool as to say that the Duke of Deronshire made such an offer. The Duke of Devonshire is not a government. He was not authorized to offer tariff policies, seeing that he had no authority over the tariff policy of his own country. What he did was bring the matter to the attention of the colonial premiers, when they came to the jubilee, and to tell them that now was the time to consider the whole imperial and colonial trade question. It was not an offer of a preference, it was an invitation for offers from the colonies. It was the opportunity that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have prayed for if he had been disposed to keep the promise that he made in Canada, for it gave him an opportunity to propose the scheme which he pledged himself to promote Of those who heard the Duke of Devonshire, one Australian premier replied that his colony would be willing to consider and assist in arranging any fair system of reciprocal trade. The premier of New Zealand spoke in the same sense. But in view of the active interest that Canada had taken. and in view of the fact that the col-ony of Camada contains more people than the whole of the Australasian colonies, and ranks first among the self-governing dominions, it was Sir Wilfrid Laurier's place to go ahead in the matter. More than any other delegates, he had power to assist. Alone of all the delegates he had power to kill the movement for the time.

And he killed tt. After Sir Wilfrid

othere to the free trade policy, and rese to tax foreign ar ing more to say. As soon as Canada had thrown her influence against a mutual preference system, the whole discussion of trade relations came to an end The Duke of Devo Mr. Chamberlain, who had invited the the whole matter. All that the rial statesmen had suggested came to absolutely nothing. Not a thing was settled. The whole affair turned to a parade of premiers and an anniversary celebration, and the business part of the great imperial gathering was brought to an abrupt close.

Since then the statesmen of Great Britain have allowed the question to lapse. Chamberlain will not "touch it with a pair of tongs." Why should they talk about imperial trade arrangements, when the leading colony has declared that they want no arrangement except such conces their own part? The British statesmen who spoke a few years ago of an mperial zollverein as the question of the future, have nothing more to say about it. If the colonies desire to thrust a one-sided zollverein in upon on they are not unwilling to allow it. They certainly cannot be expected to give a preference to a colony whose premier declares that the colony does This is the question before the house. not want it.

> So Sir Wilfrid came home without the preference that he pledged himself to cak for, and which he did ask the British government not to give. He came home without that "great boon" which he had so commended in Canada, but he brought with him two other commedities which perhaps had greater ettraction for him in London. He brought a knighthood and a Cobden Club medal, having received the latter on the ground stated by the giver and accepted by the receiver, that Canada had not given Britain a preference over foreign countries and had not desired in England a preferonce over foreign countries. That was the position of the tariff of 1897 which rlaced Britein on a level with the other countries of Europe.

Sir Charles Tupper set these facts

forth with copious quotations and proofs at every step. That part of his speech is well worth a careful study on the part of any one who wants to get at the bottom of the question. He direct with a motion which shows that in his opinion the question is not flead yet. So long as the present government remains in power, and the wearer of the Cobden Club medal has the right to speak for the Canadian people, there is probably not much more to be done. But if the position can be restcred as it was when Mr. Chamberlain made his eddress, when the chambers of commerce considered the question, when the colonial conference accarried the imperial preference policy, backed by a Canadian parliament was length on the opposition side. an of portunity to obtain this great adand other foreign countries. Then our lumbermen may obtain a preference ever the lumbermen of the Baltic. Our v.rod pulp will have an advantage over that of the United States and Scandiravia. The products of our fisheries next July, the supplementary estiwill be preferred to those of foreign mates for the year now current, and lands. We should have a preferred the supplementary estimates of narket for such of our mineral products as are needed in England. new era of supremacy would dawn for the Caredian producer. On the other hand the British people would have offered to them in Canada new homes with greater prespects of prosperity. The empire would develop in the new world a source of military, commercial and industrial strength, a source of supply for food in time of war or peril, a market much greater than it now efferds, and a comrade in peace

Sir Charles Tupper closed his speech at half-past five, and a few minutes later was on his way to Quebec, where he is essisting in party organization. Mr. Peterson, the minister of customs. who rose to reply, expressed regret that Sir Charles was not remaining to hear him, but having regard to his big voice, Mr. Powell suggested that if the window were open Sir Charles would not be any time out of reach of his voice. Mr. Paterson waded through the vast columns of statistics to show that the farmer ought to be getting his scythe enaths, his bay tedders, his binder twine, his barbed wire, and his coal oil chesper than formerly. It does not appear that the farmer is in this heary position, but that is on account of some curious want of logic on the part of ithe situation, not on account of the Fielding tariff, at least this is

and war for England in all time to

the way it struck Billy Paterson. The minister was perhaps not quite as long as usual, and at no time during his speech would it have been impossible to count the house out for want of a querum. Even his fine lungs, assisted by the response of his shuddering desk, already nearly pounded to fragments, failed to do more than effect a temperary disturbance in the slumbers of his own supporters who remained. Mr. Paterson succeeded in obtaining consent to allow a lot of his tables to be printed without reading them. In this way he reduced his speech to three hours and threequarters, meking it the fourth succes sive address of an average length of some four hours each. Thereby Mr. Charlton is inspired to renew his struggle for a reform in parliamentary

Meanwhile in the senate there is no confusion or alarm over the results of the vote on the gerrymander bill. Sir Mackenzie Bowell sits cheerful on the edge of the crater. He finds himself able

The applause of listening senates to command. The threats of pain and ruin to de-

He is amused over the suggestion Laurier told the other premiers and that the senators who voted against



the bill do not represent the people, and is waiting till the people are heard from to see about that. Meanwhile it happens that the gentleman who had charge of the bill is himself the rejected of Bothwell, and that amone those who voted for it are Senator Templeman, the rejected at Victoria, Senator Ker, repeatedly rejected by his constituency; Senator Watson, who has just been turned out of power in Manitoba; Senator Young, rejected the other day by his constituents in that province; Senator Burpee, who was defeated on his last appeal to the people of Sunbury; Senator Carnrichael, rejected by the people of Pictou, and various other sena tors who are in the house with Mr. Mills, because, like him, they could not get in the other. Whet one reads that the senators who threw the bill out are old and decrepid one remembers that the oldest of them all voted for the measure and that the only three men appointed to the senate after they were eighty years old have been called by the present government and are supporters

of the government policy.

OTTAWA, April 2.-We have now entered upon the third month of the session and as yet only five speeches have been made in the laudget debate while the estimates are practically untouched. The only measures of importance that have passed the commons are the garrymander bill, and the bill to provide for the South Africa contingent expenses. Neither and when a Canadian government of these was debated at any great The in that direction, we shall again have moved to supply came from the government side and occasioned the prin- ly was nothing in the previous record ventuge to ourselves and to the em- cipal debates of the session. Both of pire. Then we may obtain for our these motions were moved for party formers a better market in England purposes and discussed at greater for their wheat, cats, cheese, butter, length by the government than by the cattle, bacon and other products than opposition. In the whole session so is obtained in England by the farm- far the government side has done ess of the United States and Denmark pore than its share of the talking, and therefore cannot suggest charge of obstruction.

The house has before it the main

estimates for the year beginning in year beginning in July. There is the budget debate to complete; and Mr. Fitzpatrick's bill amending that unfortunate, expensive and inefficient franchise leav which he and his friends have got on the statute book. has only now appeared on the notice paper. Moreover, the government will have to face a number of resolutions from the opposition side, including one on the West Huron and Brockville seat stealing operations and the government's complicity therein, and also motions in regard to the binder twine combine, whereby the cost of the product is immensely increased, while home industries, except those in the penitentiaries, have been handicapped. Doubtless also there will be a motion about oil, the production and distribution of which has passed into the hands of the Standard Oil Company, to the great loss of the consumers. We shall probably also have another Yukon discussion. The public accounts committee ought to get down to work this week; and there are several disputes impending over railway legislation.

Mr. Putterson's speech as published in Hansard is heavily statistical. But the figures he gives appear to be im-perfectly connected with his argument. He is easily able to show that we have sold under preferential tariff an enormously increased value of goods to Great Britain and have sold scarcely any additional to the United States. That is to say, the United States buy from us no more than they did before, and Great Britain buys a great deal more. know, of course, that Great Britain would have bought just as much without the preference as with This is proved by the fact that Britain has increased by over one hundred million dollars her purchases from the United States in the same time. If Great Britain increased by so much the importation from the United States while the United States enforced the prohibitory Dingley law against British products, how can we argue that the Canadian preference has been the reason of the increase purchases from Canada?

But what Mr. Paterson dwells upon more is the fact that while England bought thirty-two million dellars more from us in 1899 than in 1896 we only incressed by four millions our purchases from Great Britain, while at the same time we increased by over thirty millions our imports for consumption from the United States. Mr. Paterson's argument would suggest that the pre-

to that country. This government has somehow managed to transfer to the United States producers nearly the whole of the Canadian market, while the people in the United States have left our goods severely alone.

It has been suggested by one of the government organs that Mr. McClure of Colchester did no! receive justice from some of the opposition papers. It is fair to Mr. McClure to say that he put the conservatives in a hole, so to speak. It seems they have convicted Sir Wilfrid and his supporters of breaking promises, and Mr. McClure says that the tories also broke the promise they made that the succres of the Laurier party would mean ruin to Canadian industries. Mr. Mc-Clure points cut that this promise has not been fulfilled. There appears to be some cifference between a promise nade by a statesman as to what he will do when he gets into power and a prediction as to the results of his action. The tories would naturally be opposed to the fulfilment of their prediction, whereas the government has the power to do what it said it would do, and might be supposed to desire the fulfilment of its coligation.

But when Mr. McClure accuses the oca-servatives of folly in making false predictions he is perhaps nearer right than some conservatives would admit. The conservatives seem to have assumed that the liberels would carry out their tariff pleages, and their inferences were based on that assumption. The taunt of Mr. McClure and units to this, that the conservatives were sturid, frivolous, and rash in helieving that the pledges would be kept. This writer is bound to say that Mr. McClure is not far wrong. There realof the party to justify the conclusions that their leader's pledges ought to be accepted. Mr. McClure's rebuke is therefere not out of place, and the only thing that can be said in reply is that neither the conservative party nor the country generally is likely to make the same mistake again. The warst that can be said of the conservcitives is that they were credulous. The best that can be said of Mr. McClure's pecrle is that they cannot be believed. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, April 3.-The Baile de Chalcur railway is an old story in the Caradian parliament. It carries us back a matter of a dozen years, more or less, and takes in that ever to be remembered episode of Pacaud's \$100,-600 take off for the benefit of himself, Mr. Mercier, Mr. Tarte, the Langeliers and the great liberal party. It takes in the episode of Mr. Blair's absurriion of the road into the Intercolconal system without authority of parliament, and during a by-election, as a delicate campaign move. The road was diverced from the government system shortly after, when it was found to have yielded about 30 per cent. of the running expenses and to have cost the country a net less of some \$15,000.

Recent changes have connected the Beie de Chaleur railway with Mr. Armsirang's Atlantic and Lake Superior scheme, and have included the Paspettac winter port experiment. On the whole it has been apparently demonstrated that there is not more business then enough to keep this road in operation around the coast of Chaleur Bey. Meanwhile this government has given subsidies for extensions of the road. Now there is a new company in the field, which wants to build the Gespe Slart Line railway from the Intercolonial to some point in Gaspe farther slong than this road extends The proposed road would for a long part of its distance duplicate the one new engaged in a struggle for existence. The new company proposes to take powers to buy the old railway, and this clause was the principal one under discussion yesterday.

The Gespe company includes two London investors, Mr. Joneas, a former member of parliament, and two or three local men. It has the good fortune to have secured Mr. Wm. Pugsley for its sclicitor, and is naturally expected to be in the running for subsidies. Now it happens that the Baie de Chaleur railway which the new company might want to buy is heavily involved in debt. Laboring men who toiled on that road years and years ago are still creditors for their wages. Boarding house keepers who fed the employes are still cherishing their claims. Men who furnished supplies to the company or to its contractors are growing sick with hopes deferred. There remains for them only the railvey and its possible subsidies for their protection. If, now, a new company steps in, takes over the old line and abscrbs all the future subsidies, where do the claimants come in for their share?

That is what Mr. McAlister wants to know. It is a question which he has ferential tariff has caused England to a right to ask, seeing that in his own buy more from us while we have county of Restigouche and in his own turned to the United States to buy our town there are poor men who have ingoods without any corresponding sales vected their labor and their savings in slipped the "unduly" once more in

of dollars Mr. McAlister ledeves in the first place that these case of a raffwey transfer, and secendly be cannot see the advantage of desiroyng the chances for one route by giving rival charters over the same country. The new concern can paralyze the old one and make it impossible for the old one to find another purchaser. But it will in no way be responsible for the liabilities, even though it should get hundreds of thousands of dollars in new subsidies, besides taking over the proceeds of the old ones. Moreover, boards of trade old ones. Moreover, boards of trade end citizens generally from the dis-inicis affected have passed resolutions against the new charter. It was found that when , Mr. Mc-

Alister began to set forth these views he had the whole fraternity of ministers egainst him. Especially the premier and Mr. Blair developed into strong promoters of the company seeking incorporation. They were sorry for the creditors, but really couldn't see what could be done for them. Finally after some hours discussion when Mr. Lemieux, who was supposed to have the bill in charge. a willingness to allow the matter to stand over for two days, the premier and Mr. Blair at once took their re-venge on Mr. McAlister by ordering his cwn Restigouche and Western railway bill to stand over with the other. Now the Restigouche and Western railway bill has no possible connection with the Gaspe charter. It deals with a bridge over the St. John liver, in Victoria county, on the United States frontier. A whole province lies between them. Nor is there any objection to the McAlister bill. So when Mr. Blair and the premier tacked the two tegether, to make the success of one depend upon the fortunes of the other, it was a piece of hostile stra-

tegy worthy of the late Mr. Joubert. Yesterday Mr. Fielding, perhaps rithout intending to do so, administered a well deserved rebuke to his leader. After the failure of the Ville Marie Bank, when a deputation of the creditors waited upon the government for relief. Sir Wilfrid Laurier distinctly threw the blame of the whole affair on Mr. Fester. He told them that so long ago as 1892 the bank was in diffied that it should be closed up. The premier went on to explain that party friends of the late government used their influence and Mr. Foster allowed the bank to go on, with the result that the people were ruined.

It was afterwards suggested by some of Mr. Freter's friends that if the benk was insolvent in 1892, and had been gring down hill ever since, Mr. Fielding must have been still more to blame in allowing it to remain in operation three or four years under his ministry. It appears that the \$200,000 over issue of notes has taken place in Mr. Fielding's time. In his time the away or stolen what remained of the assets, and yet Mr. Fielding did nothing.

But if Sir Wilfrid was right and the finance minister was responsible, then Mr. Monk of Jacques Cartier had some ground for the claim he advanced yesterday that the government should now come to the relief of the sufferers. It seems that after the leading merchemis, financiers and the other banks refused to do business with the Ville Marie, poor people still carried their savings there, so that the losses fall on thousands of families who can least afford it. Mr. Monk pressed the case very strongly across the floor of the house, and Mr. Fielding in his reply made what appeared to be a fair statement of the case.

The finance minister says that the

government does not guarantee the obligations of the banks. It provides a kind of supervision and causes the bank to make returns. But there is no way of guaranteeing the correctness of the return, nor does the government take any responsibility for the statement. Mr. Fielding does not believe that the government, either in his time or in that of Mr. Foster, was negligent or acted improperly. frankly states that Mr. Foster had no reason to act otherwise than as he did. He had no power to close the bank, nor did Mr. Courtney ask him to do so. What Mr. Courtney meant was that the government account in the bank should be closed. Mr. Foster went as far as he could when he took care that the bank capital should be reduced to the amount actually paid in, and when he ordered the government account to be withdrawn. Mr. Fielding himself had done all that he had a right to do, and therefore there was no obligation, legal or moral, on the part of the government toward the sufferers.

It is a vindication of Mr. Foster from the attack of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose words were quoted in condemn-ation of Mr. Foster by the government press from one end of Canada to the other. The ex-finance minister might have vindicated himself earlier, but he had been willing to bide his nime. Now it is Sir Wilfrid Laurier's turn to apologise, not only to the exfinance minister, whose reputation he thought to injure, but to the unfortunate people whom his words were calculated to mislead. It is a question whether combina-

This statement is doubtless correct.

tions in restraint of trade shall be allowed to go on, or whether the prohibition shall only apply to combina tions which "unduly" restrain trade. Dr. Sproule does not like the word "unduly," as he thinks it unduly restrains the restraint. So when the senate put the word "unduly" where he did not have it, the commons was induced to take it out again. The matter passed back and forward, the senators clinging to the unduly, and the commons dispensing with it.

Finally the senate gave up the matter and all restraint of trade by combinations became unlawful, whether it was undue or not. But this year the government is amending the criminal code, as it does every year, and yes*************

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the combination clause, and there it stands at the request of the govern-

It would also appear that the government and Mr. Charlton have an understanding. The latter had been dealing with a special class of of-fences which he makes peculiarly his own, and has succeeded in carrying through by retail a number of amendments relating to age of consent, seduction, and other matters of that sort. When he gets his eye on the government amendments to the criminal code he will perceive that his amendments are amended out of existence by wholesale. Mr. Mills has charge of the bill and is working it through the senate. It will come to the commons afterwards, and Mr. Charlton will perhaps rejoice that he has opened out before him the same field of usefulness that he had some years ago. It has always been a question what Mr. Charlton would do when he got through his list of reforms. The minister of justice has set himself to work to answer that question, and has assigned Mr. Charlton the labors of Sisyphus, whose business it was to roll stones up hill as fast as they rolled down. In the case of Mr. Charlton this would be no punishment, for it is his delight to roll this particular boulder up the kopie. It is even maliciously suggested that culties, and Mr. Courtney recommend- if the minister of justice and the law of moral gravitation did not make work for him, Mr. Charlton would himself slyly dislodge the stone rather than be out of a job. S. D. S.

THE EXODUS.

(Amherst Press, Tuesday.) There was quite an exodus from the county today, about a dozen stalwart young men from Shinimicas and other places, leaving by the C. P. R. for Boston. The liberal policy has not stopped the exodus, as the leaders of that party promised it should.

(Kentville, N. S. Wedge.) A large number of our young people are leaving for the States now in almost every train. On Saturday last (morning express) a car had to be put on at this station to accommodate them. It is not quite time for the Doughabors and Galicians to arrive yet, who are replacing our own citizens, who are going to help populate the United States. It is a fine exchange. By the way, how our friends who now hold the reins of power, but who were in opposition then, used to howl at this "exodus," as they used to call it. We don't hear a word now about it, although it is going on just the same. The Doukhobors and Galicians are not due, we believe. until later in the season, so that we may keep them over the winter and have them nice and fat in the spring.

To a spectator on the wharves of the two Boston boats on Wednesday evening it was epparent that that odious thing known as the 'exodus' has begun -- Varmouth Times.

Quite a number of persons from Dundee left by the express on Tuesday merring for New Whatcom, Wash In the party were Geo. Wright and family, Geo. Kerr and D. Woods. Smith Maicom went to Vancouver with the rarty.--Restigouche Tele-

phone. On the evening of March 20th John McVitie, John Macdonald and Harry Macdonald were presented with an address and banquetted at the Forester House, Crapaid, P. E. I., on the eve of their departure for Seattle, Washington.-Summerside Journal.

A Cellina Corner, Kings Co., correspondent writes to the Sun under date of March 31: A number of persons have left this section for the United States to seek empk.yment, and about a dozen or more will leave in a few days for the same destination. Nearly all the young men and maidens have left this place. In some cases whole families have gene. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fair-wealther have sold their valuable horse to Joseph Hornbrook of Mount Middleton and leave in a few days for the United States, where they intend to rake their home.

SUBMARIME BOATS IN WAR.

LONDON, April 6.—A question was asked in the house of commons today as to the steps taken by Her Majesty's government with reference to submarine boats and the American submarine boat Holland. The first lord of the admiralty, Geo. J. Goschen, replied that the admiralty had given attention to the subject, but, he added, that even if the practical difficulties attending the use of submarine boats could be overcome, they must essentially remain a weapon for maritime powers on the defensive, "and it was natural that those nations who anticipate holding that position should endeavor to develop submarine boats."

Mr. Goschen, continuing, said the best method of mesting their attack was receiving consideration and, in this direction, practical suggestions would be valuable. The first lord of the admiralty then said: "It seems certain that a reply to this weapon must be believed for its test at the distriction than LONDON, April 6.-A question was asked seems certain that a reply to this weapon must be looked for in other directions than in building submarine boats ourselves for, clearly, one submarine boat cannot fight

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