

The Standard



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IS THIS A SURRENDER?

The startling announcement is made in despatches from Washington that an agreement has been practically reached between Mr. Fielding and Mr. Graham, representing the Canadian government, and President Taft and his Secretary of State representing the United States government, whereby "material concessions have been granted by Canada," so that the United States will receive the intermediate rates on "a considerable number of articles in which exporters from the United States are specially interested." It is further stated in this despatch that while some ninety articles are mentioned in the French Treaty with Canada, the United States has consented to receive the intermediate on much less than half that number, and this is explained by the remark that in many of the articles, "the United States has little or no interest. The Washington correspondent states that this arrangement gives general satisfaction in his neighborhood, as giving the United States the minimum rate in Canada. Naturally this is described as a triumph of American diplomacy since the boon is obtained without a single reduction in the United States duties on Canadian goods.

Until this announcement is confirmed in some authoritative way it is fair to Mr. Fielding and his colleagues not to accept it as a statement of fact. If it shall prove true that the Canadian government has made concessions to the United States, for no price but that of immunity from the maximum tariff of that country, the extent of the surrender would depend upon the number and character of articles on which favored terms are given. There are in the French tariff a large number of articles which do not figure extensively in our trade with France, but amount to a great deal in our trade with the United States, and would amount to much more if the tariff were cut down to the intermediate or treaty rate. Among these are canned meats, canned corn and tomatoes, canned fruits, sardines, garden and field seeds, florists and nursery stock, candy, confectionery of all kinds, photographs, cards and engravings, medicinal preparations, perfumery, ink, china and other table ware, cement, common window glass, plate glass, and glassware, silverware, aluminum ware, clocks, watches and watch actions, cutlery, locomotive and motor cars and automobiles, iron and steel ware, woodenware, furniture, thread, woolen cloths and woolen dress goods, carpets and mats, pianofortes and other musical instruments, boots and shoes, gloves and mitts, jewelry, lead pencils and pens, trunks, valises, leather, velvets, laces and embroideries, brass and copper manufactures, soap, and many other staples of trade. It goes without saying that if the United States has obtained for nothing except the threat of a maximum tariff, the Canadian reciprocity rates on a considerable number of these articles there is good reason for surprise and indignation in Canada. Equally strong are the reasons for refusing to believe that such a surrender has taken place or is contemplated.

On the eighteenth day of November last Mr. Fielding introduced the bill ratifying the amended French treaty. A treaty was made two years before and ratified by the Canadian parliament. The French senate refused to ratify unless further concessions were made. Mr. Fielding made them in a new convention, getting no additional favors in return, and on the date mentioned submitted his new treaty for approval of the House of Commons. No one was able to show that the treaty as mutilated was of any great value to Canada. It was certainly not a matter of urgency since it had been held up some two years at Paris without attracting much notice in this country. The Payne bill had in the meantime become law in the United States, and it was questioned whether the President would not be authorized by it to impose the maximum penalty on Canada, unless the concessions made to France by way of bargain should be given to the United States by way of free gift. Mr. Borden, Mr. Foster, Mr. Monk, and other opposition members suggested to Mr. Fielding that a few months further delay would do no harm, and there would be time to ratify the treaty after the first of April, when the government and the House would know how the United States tariff would affect the question.

Mr. Foster is thus reported:—"Canada's trade with France is only ten millions, while that with the United States is two hundred and seventy millions. Hardly a merchant from Halifax to Vancouver but would suffer from an American surtax. I am as strong as any one in declaring that after we know the facts and see that a certain course is in our interest, we should follow that course without regard to what the United States may think. But it is the height of absurdity to refuse to wait until we get the information. The treaty has now waited a long time, and nothing has happened to the detriment of Canadian trade, and nothing would happen if we waited two or three months more."

Mr. Borden spoke in the same sense. "No one," he said, "desires Canada to take up an undignified position. At the same time the ratification of the treaty might have an important bearing upon a large section of our foreign trade. . . . There is no hurry about this treaty. It can be ratified at any time before the end of the session and I can see no reason why we should not want information as to the attitude of the United States." Mr. Monk pressed the same arguments and Mr. Middlebrooke asked Mr. Fielding whether he would still press the bill through if he thought it would cause the United States to apply the maximum tariff, to which question no answer was given.

Mr. Fielding would hear to none of these suggestions. He was then gloriously indifferent to the legislation of the United States and any interpretation that might be made at Washington. "I do not think we ought to wait on the action of the United States," he said, "I think we have clearly made it understood in this parliament that Canada, while paying great deference to her great

neighbor, is no longer willing to be dependent on the action of the United States in tariff matters. The sentiment of our people is that we shall quietly and deliberately work out our own commercial policy. If that policy be acceptable to our powerful neighbor, we are all the more pleased, but if it should not, much as we might regret the fact, I do not see why that should justify our taking a different policy. I do not see why we should depart from any line of action which we deemed advantageous in our own interest because that might not be agreeable to the great Republic." Therefore Mr. Fielding did not think it proper to wait on Washington until the first of April.

Four months ago, when these words were spoken, Mr. Fielding evidently did not expect to make one trip to Albany and one to Washington before the first of April, because this treaty was regarded at Washington as an undue discrimination. There is nothing in his words to indicate that he expected to go to Washington with terms of surrender. Whether he has made material concessions or not it is evident that the tariff policy of the United States has ceased to be a matter of indifference to the Minister of Finance. These journeys are not exactly in the way of "quietly and deliberately working out our own tariff policy" without considering whether it is agreeable to the great Republic. The advice given Mr. Fielding by Mr. Borden and Mr. Foster last November was good, and safe counsel. It could have been followed without loss of dignity. Nobody cared enough about the French Treaty to be concerned whether it passed in November or in April, or whether it stood over another two years. It was not worth risking a dislocation of trade with any other country which did large business with Canada. A delay of a few weeks to see how the treaty might affect our trade with the United States would have been ordinary business prudence, and no loss of dignity. But it would be quite another thing to ratify the treaty and then go meekly to the United States to pay a penalty for the liberty we have taken. The Canadian people may have their own opinion of Mr. Fielding's wisdom in rushing into this unnecessary trouble. But since he has done it, and has made such a bold declaration, we are sure that the people would rather see him stand fast and take the consequences than go to Washington with apologies and tribute. Nothing could be much more disagreeable to the people of this country than to find the United States obtaining gratuitous tariff concessions from Canada when they know that the United States tariff is already more than one-half higher than that of this country.

If Mr. Fielding has made important concessions to the United States we do not yet know what they are. But we know that the government of the United States does not give, and has no power to give, any concessions in exchange. All that has got to be the escape from a penalty imposed upon us by the United States because we have given to France, for a price, certain concessions which we do not give to the United States for nothing.

MR. ROBINSON'S PARTY AND THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

At various times before the late session of the legislature began, and occasionally since, the organs of the opposition have predicted a revolt or dissent in the government party in the House. At the beginning of the session of last year trusting readers of the Telegraph were led to expect a revolution of some sort. They must have been grievously disappointed when nothing of the kind happened. This year's predictions were received with less faith, though they were offered with equal solemnity. The Valley Railway was the rock on which Mr. Hazen's bark was to split. The craft sails on. It is the other boat that has found disaster. Now we find the Telegraph complaining of the "tame followers" of Mr. Hazen.

Mr. Robinson's followers were absolutely unruly. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Copp, who seem to be pillars, and the Telegraph, which seems disposed to lay down the law for the government, are apparently helpless to mark out a policy for the opposition party in the House. After all the clamor against Mr. Hazen for not rushing a guarantee bill through last session, and after the demand that he should this year have a bill enacted to give immediate effect to the Intercolonial proposition, we find more than half the followers of Mr. Robinson voting for an amendment which would prevent action of any kind before a general election. Mr. Burchill, who is not a follower of Mr. Robinson, is consistently opposed to the government guarantee under either the Intercolonial proposition or under Part Three. He moved an amendment that before the province guarantee the bonds of the Valley Railway the question be submitted to the people. This might mean a plebiscite or might mean that the question be postponed until the end of the legislative term. In either case it flatly opposed the position taken by the leader of the opposition and by the press supporting him. Mr. Robinson himself, with Mr. Copp, Mr. Tweeddale, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Upham, voted against it. But Mr. Labllois, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Lowell, Mr. Byrne, and the two Messrs. Leger voted for the postponement and against their leader. Thus Mr. Robinson was outvoted in his own party on the very question which was to divide the government party. Both St. John county members have thus declared themselves opposed to any guarantee of bonds for the Valley Railway, to be operated by the Dominion government or otherwise, until the question has been referred to the people at the polls.

Now it is clear that the influences behind Mr. Burchill's motion would go toward the defeat of the guarantee proposition if it were submitted to a plebiscite. It is equally certain that if the government were to appeal to the province on the issue in a general election he and the Valley Railway proposition would be opposed by Mr. Robinson and his followers in the House. So whatever may be the meaning of the Burchill resolution which was supported by a majority of Mr. Robinson's following, it signifies opposition and obstruction to the Valley Railway guarantee on any terms.

The appearance of Mr. Robinson and five of his thirteen supporters coming to the help of the government against the remainder of the opposition and Mr. Burchill is a spectacle of rare interest. But if the party led by Mr. Hazen had behaved in the same way the people of the St. John Valley would have been in a pretty hard case.

Mr. Robinson may have learned caution from his experience with the man who gave him false information about excessive cost of Albert county bridges. The man who told him was obliged to confess that he made the statements without having seen one of the bridges in question. When he had finished his testimony and the case was complete even the opposition on the accounts committee found there was nothing in it. Some complaint was made of the cost of investigating these false charges. There is no occasion to complain. Money is well expended which clears up suspicion in cases of this kind, or confirms charges of wrong doing. The people have a right to know the facts.

It is currently believed that Mr. Fielding wishes to had spoken less definitely concerning the United States when the French Treaty bill was before the House a few weeks ago. The Minister of Finance did not aspire to be one of those who "swearing he would never consent, consented."

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I said unto my heart; take courage friend;
No hurt can hurt thee save thyself alone;
Thy only brother's breast may change to stone,
Thy soul's companion turn, thy core to rend;
Earth's utmost space no cheering word may send,
But only Darkness make a bitter moan.
Till naught, save Death, may seem to be thine own,
Naught left for thee to love—naught to defend.
Yet, O my heart! fear not thy challenge;
Nor quail to meet the blackest packs of Night,
Whether on flowery mead or rocky hill:
Rouse thou my blood and bid my pulses stir
To match the Lilliputians' sapless might
With the steel armor of the unconquered Will.
—John Jerome Rooney



Josh Wise SAYS:
"My ideal of a time wasted is waiting for a movie operator to mend a film."

Women in the galleries hissed the Chicago council when it legislated against long hatpins. This should teach the Chicago council that it may not misgovern with impunity except in more important matters.

In Pittsburgh the municipal grafters are confessing by the wholesale—and escaping punishment ditto. Graft in Pittsburgh is in a good way to become a cardinal virtue.

To mend china apply white lead to the broken surfaces. Press them together and tie them in place, giving them three or four days to set.

The banker whom J. P. Cudahy trimmed a few weeks ago is now able to go motoring again. But as to his present relish for "coming inside to talk of commonplace things," nothing is said in the dispatch.

On a sun baked brick they have found an account of the flood. Probably written by one of those whose name was "mud."

Police stopped a Marathon dancing contest in San Francisco. In other words the cops "tripped" the light fantastic toe.

Two little negro boys were having a dispute and it wound up with this unanswerable accusation: "Yo—why, yo mos' black 'nuf to go naked to a funeral."

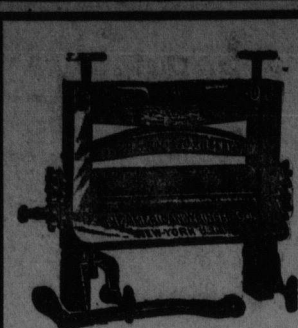
A reader wants to know whether, in speaking of a concert, it is better to say, "Miss Gibbs sang a song," or "Miss Gibbs executed a song."

In case like this it is always better to err on the side of charity.

A British newspaper publishes an advertisement of a shampoo powder, "which is, in fact designed to be used exclusively in the home." Well, where else would you use a shampoo powder?

A Swiss schoolmaster, to cure the children of his class of smoking cigarettes, compelled each of them to smoke a big, black cigar. It made all of them sick, and cured them of smoking—cigars.

Many a fellow's idea of a good time is to wake up the next morning and not know what day of the week it is.



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THE Daily Gleaner

OF FREDERICTON,
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ber of 1907 in the panic period New York City made the only other bond sales on an income basis above 4 per cent in modern financial history. The subsequent fall in the price of the new bonds begot a feeling that even the relatively low subscription price had been secured by strained efforts. That the investment situation thus indicated is a general one, is shown by other circumstances. British Consols sold down, during the week, to the lowest price since the depression of 1907 and with the exception since the first half of the last century. The reappearance of the short time railroad note issue in the New York market was additional evidence of the unsatisfactory investment demand for fixed interest speculation in the securities. Sustained high prices of commodities, the excited speculation in rubber and oil shares in the London stock market and the widespread agitation for the wage increases were regarded as different signs of the same unsatisfactory investment demand. On the other side of the labor question satisfaction was felt over the settlement of the western railroad firemen's dispute. Hopeful views were held also of an adjustment of the coal miners' troubles in the middle west. The subject retained its disturbing force by reason of other disputes still to be met and of the renewed attack upon the United States Steel Corporation by the American Federation of Labor. The cheerful views entertained by the railroad traffic officials of business prospects held the confidence in labor settlements. Business in iron was done at receding quotations.

BOND SALE AFFECTS MARKETS

New York, N. Y., March 27.—The dull and narrow stock market of last week bore little relation to the course of events in the outside world except as it was held in restraint by the prospect of curtailment by the double holiday and the possible demands upon the money markets of the approaching April settlements.

The money position was complicated by the week's sale of \$50,000,000 New York 4 1/4 per cent bonds. The results of that sale also illuminated the investment situation in a way not wholly cheering to sentiment. The first impression of the sale was good, owing to the large volume of applications and the considerable foreign demand included. The average subscription price of 101 1/8 also proved rather better than the preliminary bankers' estimates. The new bonds were immediately admitted to the stock exchange to be traded in "when issued" and the sag in the price to below the lowest at which allotments were made on subscriptions turned the feeling on the matter to one of discouragement. The price realized by the city represented an income return of 4.15 per cent to the investor compared with a return below 4 per cent at preceding sales ever since February 1908, at which time and in September