

and with a population of six millions, and with her own peculiar problems, there can be interference?

At the time of the allusion in the House of Commons by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to treaty-making powers Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Dilke, M.P., who is no mean authority, stated publicly that not only could the treaty-making power be conferred on the Dominion of Canada but that in his view it was absolutely necessary for the maintenance of the tie which bound Canada to the Mother Country. "It only requires the leadership of a strong man and the support of a powerful party to bring about at the present time the step advocated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Canada has never had, with possibly one exception, a leader so strong and so popular as the Prime Minister, and, moreover, he has a prestige in England which no Canadian statesman has hitherto possessed. If Sir Wilfrid undertakes to advocate as part of his public policy the acquiring of the treaty-making power on lines which do not involve separation then he will have the support of every patriotic Canadian, and that term includes pretty nearly all of them.

As far back as 1882 the Liberal party of Canada formulated a policy which is expressed in the following resolution moved by the Hon. David Mills in the House of Commons:—

"That it is expedient to obtain the necessary powers to enable Her Majesty the Queen, through her representative the Governor-General of Canada, upon the advice of his Ministers, to appoint an agent to negotiate commercial treaties with other British possessions or with foreign states, subject to the prior consent or subsequent approval of the Parliament of Canada."

Canada wants this power that she may be the better able to secure the markets abroad that are necessary to her prosperity. Although Sir John Macdonald took the ground that such a policy was inimical to continued connection with the mother country it was voted for by Mackenzie, Blake, Ross, Laurier, Mills and others. The same cry that treaty-making powers must lead to separation, would be raised

now, but it would not prevent Canada from supporting and supporting strong such a policy.

As explained by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that Canada asks for now is not sovereign treaty-making powers, but the arrangement of the preliminaries and the conduct of the treaty, subject to the approval of the King-in-council. The Montreal Gazette in an article of Dec. 23 takes the ground that treaty-making powers which would be subject to veto by the King-in-Council would be nothing different from what we have now. The Gazette is wrong here, but the point is that after quoting Sir Wilfrid Laurier's attitude and his words as expressed in an interview published in London and cabled to Canada, the Gazette agrees that it is unobjectionable. The Gazette takes the ground that the preliminaries of the Alaskan boundary case were arranged by the Ottawa government. So far from this being the case a treaty was drawn up ready to be signed without Canada knowing anything about it. The new British ambassador at Washington was ambitious to make a name for himself out of the question, and the British government was willing to allow him to force Canada's hand. It is universally conceded that Canada's case was given away before the hearing began and this certainly would not have been the case if Canada had arranged the preliminaries and conducted all the negotiations.

Take the case of Greenland for the purchase of which the Laurier Administration is negotiating with the Danish government. If Canada wants Greenland she can best conduct the negotiations for its acquisition consulting when necessary the British government and submitting the scheme to them for approval. Denmark is a small kingdom containing a population about the same size as that of Ontario and with a revenue about half as great as the revenue of the Dominion of Canada. It might be possible therefore, by the offer of a sum of money, to purchase Greenland, whose territory ought to be included in the Dominion of

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