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London, Wednesday, April 6, 1898.

Good Showing by the Canadian Finance Minister.

There was nothing exciting about Hon. Mr. Fielding's budget speech in the Canadian House of Commons. It was a calm presentation of the facts regarding the revenue and expenditure of the country during the past year, and a bright word-picture of the business and industrial outlook for the ensuing twelve months.

The changes in the tariff are very few, it being deemed undesirable to disturb business by constant tinkering with the rates of duty. Those alterations made are necessitated by the change in the preferential tariff arrangements. What was outlined as a possibility has now come to pass. As a result of the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties, the Canadian preferential tariff will, after July next, apply solely to Great Britain and such of her colonies as are able to meet its moderate requirements. By the agency of the preferential tariff, Canada is able to do a good turn for the British West Indies, while effecting what promises to be a profitable stroke of business for herself. The result of the deal, attended by a modification in our sugar duties, will be that the West Indies will buy more of our flour, butter, fish, wood and other products, and we will take from them large quantities of sugar, which we have hitherto obtained from Germany and other continental countries.

The Canadian Government made a most effective stroke for imperial unity when it put in force its preferential tariff. It will reach its full fruition when our brothers in all parts of the empire, by their treatment of Canadian products, show their desire to come under it. Meanwhile, the strong felicitations of Hon. Mr. Fielding on the far-reaching and beneficial effects of its provisions as applied to the Motherland, were amply warranted. Owing to Mr. Foster, the ex-Finance Minister, being indisposed, no one was ready to criticise the statement when Mr. Fielding concluded. The fact that the Finance Minister was able to show that the doleful prophecies of the opposition critics had been utterly falsified, by results, made great caution advisable, and ought to have a restraining effect when Mr. Foster does let his brilliant imagination loose in the domain of figures.

Over 90 settlers from Michigan points for Canada's vacant lands passed through London on the C. P. R. yesterday. And more are coming! Canada has been rediscovered.

This is the 78th anniversary of the declaration of Greek independence and the beginning of the war which ended in the establishment of Greece as an independent kingdom. Some people may be led to feel that in view of the colossal bungling which attended their late war with Turkey the Greeks were scarcely worth the fight put up for their nationality in the early part of the century.

Britain's Stand in the East.

Momentous information was conveyed to the British Parliament, and throughout it to the world, by Right Hon. Mr. Balfour, Government leader, last night. The long-promised explanation regarding the position in China of Great Britain and the rival Powers was made. As our late cablegrams anticipated, it is announced officially that the British authorities have, for the time, at least, checkmated Russia and Germany. Opposed herself to the break-up of China, Britain did not regard with either fear or jealousy the acquiring by Russia of a commercial outlet for her overland railway which would not be ice-bound half the year. When, however, Russia secured the magnificent fortress and harbor of Port Arthur, on the maritime approach to Peking, decided action had to be taken. For this cause, Britain has now acquired the harbor of Wei Hai Wei, with neighboring islands. This most advantageous stronghold is situated on the south side of the Strait of Pechili, while Port Arthur is on the north side. The distance between them is about 100 miles. Great Britain has also managed to have another English officer appointed to collect the maritime customs of China; she has a treaty with that country, providing that the rich and populous region of the Yang Tse Kiang shall not be alienated by any foreign power, and three additional treaty ports are to be opened to commerce.

These important concessions to Great Britain, viewed in the light of similar grants to Russia, Germany, and to a lesser degree to France, show how rapidly in recent years the situation with regard to the Chinese Empire has changed. If history is made as speedily in future as in the immediate past, the great empire may be cut in pieces, and parcelled out, to the land-hungry Powers before the new century is many years old. Great Britain does not desire such a fate for the ancient regime. All

that she has worked for, and is now anxious to provide, is the development of trade with the world. Britain's present stand has been taken solely with that object in view. It is decidedly advantageous to the great empire of which we form a part, but it is also warmly indorsed by the United States. Once more, indeed, the unity of interest of the English-speaking race is recognized. The stand taken by Britain has also the cordial sympathy of Japan, the Britain of the East. While it has its risks, it is extremely important to business men everywhere.

As for China, it is apparent that unless the Powers get together, and say that partition shall go no further, at no distant date the empire will fall to pieces. That, we fear, is its fate in any case.

Some people believe that war will for a time aid business. That may be the case. Except in a few lines, it is certain that a war scare injures business. It renders the future of conditions uncertain.

While the London school trustees are about it, could they not induce some teachers to exercise greater care over the wastefulness of the pupils in the matter of school supplies? Wastefulness indulged at school means improvident habits in after life.

Too Much Home Work.

The London school trustees last night took our advice and resolved to deal with the cramming system themselves, as it has always been in their power to do. Hitherto they have been contented to blame the law and the Minister. They now recognize that trustees have in this matter home rule, and rightly so. There will no doubt be less home work in future. There has been too much of it. It is not good for pupils of any grade of intelligence to be overburdened with home work, and unfortunately it has been the brightest and most ambitious who have suffered most. As Inspector Deacon, of Hallow, an experienced educationist, has put it, the reading at home of history and similar subjects can do no harm. But we can see no advantage to any pupil in having to spend hours every evening puzzling over difficult sums, learning verses by heart, or reciting rules of grammar. One does not require to be a medical man to know that such engrossing studies are not a proper preparation for refreshing sleep.

Both Toronto and Hamilton are to have new hotels, with up-to-date interiors.

The Toronto News (Conservative) says that it is losing faith in Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Would our esteemed contemporary mention the time when it either had or expressed any faith in the Canadian Premier? It suffers from a malady which is not new to it.

The Tools of Yankee Sharpers.

The Lindsay Warder, owned and edited by Mr. Hughes, Conservative M. P. for North Victoria, acknowledges that the defeat of the Dominion Government's bill to provide an all-Canadian route to the Yukon was accomplished by the influence of "Yankee sharpers from the Pacific coast." In permitting these enemies of Canadian trade to influence them to defeat this important measure, the Conservative party leaders, says the Warder, have shown a want of political foresight and sagacity. The worst feature of the action of the senators is the injury that they inflict on Canada's trade by preventing the immediate provision of an all-Canadian route. It means a loss of millions of dollars of business to the merchants and manufacturers of Canada. It means less work for the workers in our factories and a decreased demand for our farm and dairy products. And all because it was deemed good party policy to thwart the men in power, they being of different political affiliations to the majority of the senators! At what cost to Canada, as Mr. Hughes, one of their number, is reluctantly compelled to confess, have the Conservative leaders secured this temporary triumph!

In order to inspire United States naval commanders, the New York Times prints "The Ballad of the Revenge," printed to celebrate the famous fight between the Spanish navy and Sir Richard Greenvile's command off Flores, in the Azores, at the close of that memorable struggle. Sir Richard cried, in his English pride, "We have fought such a fight for a day and a night. As day never be fought again! We have won great glory, my men! And a day less or more, At sea or ashore, We die—does it matter when? Sink me the ship, Master Gunner—sink her, split her in twain! Fall into the hands of God, not into the hands of Spain!"

Such devotion to duty as is here chronicled may well be pointed to as worthy of imitation by the fighting men of the republic, if conflict there must be.

SECURE.
"The bank is run entirely by women."
"Is it secure?"
"Secure? Why, only the president and the paying teller know where the cashier's pocket is!"

LIFE SAVED.—Mr. James Bryson Cameron writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, stating that he had the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me. I certainly believe it saved my life. It was with reluctance that I consented to a trial, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any other remedies to do me good."

West London Entertainment.

Given by the Methodist Sunday School—A Fine Programme—The School's Progress.

The West London Methodist Sunday school held a very successful entertainment and supper last evening. A fine literary and musical programme was provided, which delighted all present. The edifice was crowded with the members and friends, and was appropriately decorated for the occasion. Mr. R. Greene, superintendent, occupied the chair, and introduced the following programme: Chorus, infant class; recitation, Alice; chorus, "Hay a Broom," girls' class; recitation, Harold McPherson; recitation, "Tobacco," boys' class; solo and chorus, primary class; recitation, "Politeness," boys' class; chorus, "The Switzer," dialogue, "Langueurs," flowers, girls' class; solo and chorus, primary class; recitation, "The Everlasting Talker," girls' class; trio (voice), Misses Greene, Stinchcombe and Law; music, intermission; report, secretary; dialogue, "True Chivalry," girls' class; solo, Miss Willard; graphophone, recitation, Annie Bartlett; recitation, Miss Maude Ratigan; piano solo, Lou Spiry, "God Save the Queen."

During intermission the secretary's annual report was read, which showed that there were on the roll 95 female and 69 male scholars. Their total attendance was: Female, 3,075; male, 2,208. Teachers on roll, 21; average attendance per Sunday, 19; total for year, 318. There were 144 visitors during the year, making in all an average attendance per Sunday of 147. Miss Alice Greenway, treasurer, reported a total of 6,940 for the year. Total number of verses recited by girls during the year, 7,487; boys, 6,661; total recited during year, 13,148, or 297 per Sunday.

The following is the staff of officers and teachers, as elected for this year: Superintendent, Mrs. Robert Greene; assistant superintendent, Mr. James Elson; secretary, Mr. Wm. Fife; assistant secretary, Mr. Wm. Donaghy; librarian, Mr. Charles Berry; assistant, Miss Eliza Woodward; pianist, Miss Alice Greenway; primary class, Mrs. James Elson and Miss Alice Greenway; supernumerary teachers, Mr. Fio Ware, Miss Eliza Woodward, Mrs. Steele, Mr. Robert Berry and Miss Alice Greenway.

The treasurer's report was: Receipts—To balance on hand, \$66 54; collections, \$125 82; interest on bank account, \$1 49; sundries, \$1 cent; amount raised by auxiliary, \$101 51; less expenses of auxiliary, \$34; net proceeds, \$261 51; total, \$282.

Disbursements—Tickets, teachers' supplies, etc., \$23 15; general Sunday school fund, \$3; Sunday School Association, \$2; loan to Epworth League, \$20; last payment on piano, \$10 35; expenses on Sunday school picnic, \$13 16; W. Briggs, re W. Briggs, \$1; library cards and catalogues, \$11 50; W. Briggs, supplies, \$23 65; sundries, \$26 77. Total, \$198 35. Cash balance on hand, \$68 45.

The gathering dispersed after the pronouncing of the benediction by the pastor.

Postoffice Burglarized.

Thieves Make a Big Capture at Norwood—\$420 in Money and Stamps and \$2,000 in Valuable Papers Taken.

Norwood, Ont., April 6.—Early yesterday morning burglars forced the back door off the postoffice in the store of J. D. Pearce, postmaster, and attacked the contents of the safe carried off and the contents of the safe carried off. Two hundred and thirty dollars in money and stamps, belonging to the postoffice, \$2,000 worth of papers, and about \$200 in cash belonging to Mr. Pearce were secured. The building had a narrow escape from being burned.

THE ELORA SAFE ROBBERY.
Guelph, Ont., April 6.—Dirk Thompson, alias Johnston, appeared before Magistrate Saunders, charged with being connected with the Elora safe-cracking and the burglarizing of Mr. Boswell's store. The evidence was very strong against the prisoner, and the magistrate committed him for trial. Bail was refused.

BURGULARS AT OTTERTONVILLE.
Woodstock, Ont., April 6.—Constable Joseph Fish, who lives over Wyatt & Purvis' store in Otterville, was disturbed by someone in the store below, and found that someone had entered the store by forcing the back door. A hole had been drilled in the safe near the combination, and had the operator not been disturbed this safe no doubt would have been blown open.

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NOT LONG SEPARATED.

Chatham, April 6.—Mr. and Mrs. Adam Crane, who were well known in Kent county, died within ten days of each other, as the following notices show: "Near Chatham, North Dakota, on Monday, March 14, of pneumonia, Adam Crane, aged 74 years. On Thursday, March 24, Melissa J. Errett, widow of the late Adam Crane, aged 62 years, formerly of Kent county, Ont."

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Whether itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusty, pimply, or blotchy, whether simple, scrofulous, or hereditary, from infancy to age, speedily cured by warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP, gentle anointings with CUTICURA ointment, the great skin cure, and mild doses of CUTICURA Resolvent, greatest of blood purifiers and humor cures.

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D & A Corsets Wear as well as they fit. Sold by most dry goods houses.

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Students desiring to try the government examinations should attend this term, commencing Monday, March 22.
EVENING CLASSES—Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Fees for 30 lessons \$5. Freehand, model drawing, modeling in clay, oil and watercolor painting.
AFTERNOON CLASSES—Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oil, watercolor and china painting, crayon drawing, etc.
For circulars apply to J. H. GRIFFITHS, Principal.

