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THE WEST INDIAN TREATY DISCUSSED IN COMMONS

(Continued from page one)

ing of rapping his juvenile colleague over the knuckles. The young minister of finance got off into a discussion of the navy. He said it was against the interest of empire to "waste precious time in attempting to build dreadnoughts in Canada in view of the needs of the empire at the present time."

Then he turned to reciprocity and declared if the country had to vote again tomorrow the majority against it would be "double or treble what it was." Mr. White had spoken for half an hour, on extraneous subjects, when the man whom he had supplanted as finance minister got his opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Foster rose quietly and appealed to the speaker on a point of order. "We have a bill before this house," he observed in his silkiest tones, and God knows where we have not go to." Whereupon with somewhat flushed face, Finance Minister White promptly quitted the chamber.

"EMPIRE SAVERS" CATCH IT

Hon. Dr. Pugsley took another shot at "the sort of stuff fed to the British public at dinners in England" by Mr. Foster and other Canadian ministers in connection with their comments on the turning down of the reciprocity agreement. He declared that it was a direct insult to practically half the people of Canada to say that on that question the Conservatives in Canada were "saving the empire" while the Liberals were "moving toward separation."

Hon. Frank Oliver also noted that the treaty involved an actual increase in duties on the above items of general use.

In reply to a question by Mr. Turbill, Mr. Foster said that "at the present moment the government had no intention of reducing the British preference."

FOSTER ON THE GRILL.

In the afternoon during the course of the debate on the second reading of the bill just before the dinner adjournment, Mr. MacDonald, Pictou, tried unsuccessfully to draw a statement from Hon. Mr. Foster as to the general policy of the government in regard to the inter-imperial preferential trade and the extent to which they were co-operating with Bonar Law and the other tariff reform leaders in England.

No doubt said Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Foster had discussed the matter with Bonar Law in England last November and the latter's now famous speech in regard to a conference with the overseas dominions on the extent to which mutual tariff favors might be granted was doubtless made after ascertaining the views of the Canadian government. Mr. MacDonald went on to declare that probably many Conservatives in Canada were anxious to know just what the government policy was and what assurances had been given to the British Unionist leader. Canadian manufacturers were not keen on any preferential arrangement which meant more competition from Great Britain on manufactured goods. He pressed the minister of trade and commerce for a statement on the matter.

At this point, Hon. Dr. Sproule the speaker sought to stop Mr. MacDonald pursuing the question any further on the ground that he was wandering too far from the bill. Mr. MacDonald, however, stuck to his point and was finally allowed to put the question to Mr. Foster in a round-about way.

"I would like to think it over during the dinner hour, before replying," was Mr. Foster's tentative evasion.

"You can't draw me," was Hon. Geo. E. Foster's final answer to the questions from Mr. MacDonald and Hon. Dr. Pugsley regarding the relations and understanding existing between the Borden Government and the British Unionists with regard to imperial preferential trade, and future treatment of the British preference. The answer was only given after Mr. Foster had taken the dinner hour at his own request to "think it over."

NO BARGAINING WITH BRITAIN.

However uncertain the government policy may be, there was no uncertainty about the Liberal declaration of policy enunciated by Dr. Pugsley amid Liberal cheering. "We, on this side of the house," he said, "stand for no bargaining with the mother country. Those who have gone about the country both in Britain and in Canada, stating that imperial interests of empire demanding that British food stuffs be taxed for the benefit of the overseas dominions, are in our opinion doing injury to the empire."

When the house met this evening, Mr. MacDonald pressed for information, he asked, moreover for a definite statement as to the government policy on the British preference. Was it to be increased, decreased or taken as permanent.

Mr. Foster said that these matters did not come in properly during the discussion of the West Indies agreement.

Dr. Pugsley took issue with the statement. He maintained that certain of the West Indies delegates were given to understand that certain portions of the agreement were contingent on the British preference continuing and the the continuance of the British preference was in turn contingent on the giving on the part of Britain of a quid pro quo. In fact it had been stated by certain English Unionists that unless Britain imposed a tax on food stuffs the preference would not last. "Who gave the British Unionists authority to say that unless Britain imposed food taxes, the British preference in Canada was of a temporary character and would not last?" demanded Dr. Pugsley.

Mr. Foster persisted that "you can't draw me." It would "outrage parliamentary propriety" for him to disclose such information in advance of tariff proposals which must be submitted to his royal highness for approval before being presented to parliament.

Dr. Pugsley was surprised to hear such an argument advanced by a government colleague of Hon. Robt. Rogers. It was the proper and customary course with estimates for public expenditures, yet Mr. Rogers had sent advance announcements of alleged estimates to a Nova Scotia constituency for the purpose of endeavoring to influence a bye-election. How did Mr. Foster reconcile this with his present position?

Mr. Foster did not. He sat silent.

LAVINE CASE ATTRACTS

(Continued from page 1)

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Cross examined by Mr. P. A. Guthrie, witness stated that personally he did not know Lavine had received money for the third draft or paid exchange on it. Witness saw money paid Lavine for the other two drafts. Witness did not know that accused during the summer had carried on business in partnership with William A. B. McLellan but knew there had been business dealing between the two. The first draft when first presented to the witness was not in the condition it is now. That draft was presented twice. When presented the second time it bore W. A. B. McLellan's endorsement. Witness did not know how it came to be endorsed by W. A. B. McLellan. On the first occasion witness had requested Lavine to procure W. A. B. McLellan's endorsement. After the draft was endorsed Lavine obtained cash for it but it was not in consequence of the endorsement that Lavine obtained the money for it. Witness had asked for McLellan's endorsement as a precautionary measure and as confirmation of the transaction. It was not particularly to get another man's name on the paper. He considered the paper more secure after McLellan had endorsed it. Had Mr. McLellan telephoned him that the telephone conversation with Arscott & Co. which Lavine had mentioned was all right, he would not have required his signature. The draft had not been discounted until McLellan's endorsement was upon it.

The draft of December 23 also had been endorsed by W. A. B. McLellan. Witness had sent Lavine to get the endorsement. Witness presumed it was cashed after being endorsed by McLellan but could not swear he saw Lavine get cash for it. Draft was not cashed because McLellan's signature was on it. There was some little security connected with the endorsement of any party. He considered the draft more secure with McLellan's endorsement. W. A. B. McLellan was liable to the bank for the drafts bearing his endorsement. Possibly McLellan could be compelled to pay the amount of the drafts.

Mr. Hughes objected to the witness being asked legal questions.

His Honor allowed the question.

The witness, when asked whether McLellan, if he had sufficient means, could be compelled to pay the amounts of the drafts, replied that he could.

Ques.—"Does a bank force persons indebted to it to pay up?"

Ans.—"I cannot answer that."

Ques.—"If a person owed a bank would the bank force him to pay?"

Ans.—"I cannot answer that."

Ques.—"Why did you not make Bill McLellan pay these drafts?"

Mr. Hughes objected that the question concerned a civil case and not a criminal prosecution such as was before the court.

The question was allowed and witness replied that he did not think McLellan was good for them.

Continuing, witness stated that W. A. B. McLellan had told him he was willing to pay his share. Witness did not know that McLellan had paid

AFTER STOCK-TAKING BARGAINS

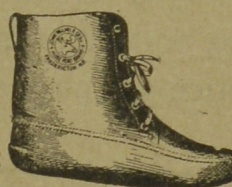
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anything on them.

Witness stated that it was on account of the representations made by Lavine in connection with the first two drafts that the last draft was put through. Accused made no representations to witness on the last draft.

MEXICANS MAY SUPPLANT NEGROES

Callington, La., Jan. 24—Plans to import farm laborers to tame the place of indolent negroes will be discussed at a farmers' conference here tomorrow. Farmers from all over the parish are arriving for the meeting. Owing to the unusually high wages paid last year few negroes can be induced to work at the old rates of pay, but demand pay at the same rate as is paid in cotton picking time. Many planters favor the importation of Mexican labor.

The lace industry of Belgium gives employment to about 45,000 women and girls, some of whom begin their apprenticeship when only six or eight years of age.

CANADIAN SWIMMERS TO INVADE THE U. S.

Montreal, Jan. 24—Ten of the speediest swimmers of McGill University left Montreal today for their annual American trip. In the course of the next two weeks the Canadians will engage in a series of contests at Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia and other leading Eastern universities.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 24—A special tax to defray the expenses of the Alabama Centennial Exposition, which it is proposed to hold in 1919 in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Alabama's admission to the Union, was recommended in a report submitted today by a special committee that has investigated the question. Governor O'Neal is expected to recommend a constitutional amendment which will be necessary before such a tax can be levied. The exposition probably will be held in Birmingham.

Patternmakers' unions propose to take a referendum vote on an international convention this year.