

CONSERVATIVES ENDORSE LAURIER

Amusing Situation Created in the Local Legislature.

ON MR. SMITH'S RESOLUTION ENDORSING CHAMBERLAIN'S POLICY OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

Attorney General Added Amendment also Endorsing Liberal Government.

AND RATHER THAN STULTIFY THEMSELVES, MR. HAZEN AND HIS FRIENDS

Were Compelled to Swallow the Whole Programme.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Osman introduced a bill relating to cattle running at large.

Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill to amend the act to incorporate the Maine and New Brunswick Electrical Power Company Ltd.

Mr. Tweeddale introduced a bill relating to rates and taxes.

Preferential Trade.

Mr. Smith.—In rising to address the House in support of a resolution of which I gave notice I could not do so without considerable trepidation were it not that I fully appreciate that the hon. members of this House will heartily concur in the spirit and letter of this resolution. I feel satisfied that it is one which will appeal to every true and loyal citizen. The purport of the resolution is similar to the one moved at the convention conference in London in 1902, in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave his consent. I most express my admiration of the grand policy of preferential tariff which is being so ably advocated by the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. It is one which will give the colonies and the British Empire a trade preference against the world. Critics assert that this policy has aroused no enthusiasm in Canada and that it has fallen flat in this country. I do not concur in this. If this important question is worth considering I think it should be considered now when it is a live question. During the past few years nearly every industrial centre in different parts of the Empire has made declarations on this subject and I feel it is the duty of the Boards of Trade and of this Legislature to be heard on this question. Such organizations as the Boards of Trade represent the business interests of this country and, since so much importance is attached to Canadian opinion they should be heard from in regard to preferential tariff. The country is entering on a new era. Up to the year 1841 the affairs of Canada were governed from the Colonial office in London. Up to 1867 we enjoyed responsible government on a restricted scale but it was not until that year that the country enjoyed the full privileges of responsible government. At the time of confederation we found the Dominion stretching from ocean to ocean but it was necessary to have a great expansion of political ideas. We are at present entering on a new chapter of colonial history and the policy of the present will determine to a great extent the future of this empire. We have come to a great crisis in history and the empire hangs together by a slender thread which but a breath might separate. It was once asserted that England looked forward to a time when the colonies having grown up and becoming hardy and vigorous would have a strong desire for liberty and wish to break off from the mother land. This has not proven to be true. The colonies still have every element of national life. Their possibilities of separation have become greater and greater and we are proud to

say the desire for separation has become less. Is it not possible that as the slender wire cable carries an electric message across the ocean the thread of union uniting us to the mother land is capable of carrying an expression of sympathy and patriotism which will bind us more firmly together? I claim that no class will receive greater benefit from this policy than the farmers of this country. It is with a thrill of pride that we look at the great fertile areas of the west and consider their possibilities. It has been claimed that Canada cannot supply the food stuffs sufficient for the mother land. Let us look for a moment at the vast areas of Manitoba and the Northwest. It has been estimated that in the next ten years there will be ten million acres of land under cultivation in Manitoba. The crop from these will be one hundred and seventy million bushels of wheat, ninety million bushels of oats, twenty million bushels of barley in the next ten years. It is right to assume that the Northwest Territories will be in a similar position. The total output of Canada will then be three hundred millions bushels of wheat, two hundred millions bushels of oats and ninety million bushels of barley. The average consumption of the mother land is from one hundred and seventy five million to two hundred million bushels per year. The problem then before us is not how can we supply the mother land but what will we do with our surplus products.

We must transfer our foreign markets to our home markets. This principle has built up the republic to the south of us, and has enabled her for so long to control the trade of North America. The history of the last 30 or 40 years has shown a tendency towards the disappearing of the small principalities and powers which will gradually be gathered under the flags of five or six great powers of the earth. This has been the tendency for years and we see it emphasized clearly to-day. We see Russia stretching an arm across the northern part of Asia grasping for more territory. Coming to Europe we see Germany and France asserting the same tendency. The United States Republic is doing everything to increase her

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trade and strengthen her hands for war. We are all glad to see that Great Britain is increasing her territory, bettering her influence and opening her fields to manufacturing industries. The dominating power will be the one which will carry on the great interchange of trade within her own borders and protect her own industries. We stand at the threshold of a new era and there are great possibilities before us and it is a great privilege to be a young man at this age. In the words of the poet Wordsworth "but to be young was very heaven." We will surely be brought into a complete consciousness of national life which we yet lack. The great question before us is will Canada stand out alone and independent or will she take a course which will bind her closer to the liberty loving and law abiding people of the British Empire.

I therefore move the following resolution:

Resolved, that this House believes that the adoption of the principle of preferential trade throughout the British Empire would greatly stimulate commercial intercourse and by promoting the development of the resources and industries of the several parts, strengthen the Empire.

That this House has watched with great interest the progress of the discussion of this question in the United Kingdom, South Africa and throughout Canada, and desires to express its hearty sympathy with every effort made to accomplish by constitutional methods the commercial organization of the Empire on the basis of such trade preference.

Mr. Donald Morrison.

said: in rising to second the resolution I wish to say I feel it is one which I am satisfied will meet with the unanimous approval of the House. I congratulate the hon. mover of the resolution on his most animated, able and eloquent address in which he fully sustained his reputation. The resolution on preferential trade is one broad and deep. It is pleasant indeed to have such a one before the house, and I hope and trust there will be no party division. The resolution is very general in its terms and I feel that there ought to be a general principle in binding together the empire. I have the greatest admiration towards the great statesman who is advocating this policy and who holds a very prominent position in the empire. Commerce is the life of every nation. They all try to make treaties with other nations extend their trade. It is the pride of every loyal subject that Great Britain has led the trade of the world and it is the desire of all that she shall continue to do so. The eyes of the mother country have gradually been opened to the colonies as markets for her manufactures but colonial trade has not been carried on as much as is desirable. Canada imports annually a million dollars worth of goods from foreign markets which ought to come from English markets. Canada produces annually a million dollars worth of food and farm products for which a market must be obtained. Great Britain is the natural market for these products. The trade between the colonies and the mother land in its stimulation and Chamberlain's scheme of mutual preference seems to fulfill the demand and meet with general approval. Why should not Great Britain grant her colonies preference as against foreign powers which are her commercial enemies? The colonies have stood by the empire in the past and will stand by her last man and dollar in case of future trouble. Canada has the soil and climate capable of producing such products as are needed by the Empire. The marvels of the past shall be exceeded by the progress of the future. Let us all labour to strengthen and consolidate the Empire and make it a grand and united whole.

A Flank Movement.

Hon. Mr. Pagsley—I join in the applause of the whole House of the able and eloquent remarks of the member from

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Carleton and also those of the member from Northumberland. There is no one in this House who will not heartily approve of the sentiments contained in the resolution, but in my opinion it does not go far enough. It is silent in regard to a great forward step which the people of Canada have already taken in reference to inter-imperial trade preference. I should be sorry if we should confine our references to preferential trade to what is taking place in England and fail to recognize what has taken place on this side of the Atlantic.

A few years ago the people of Canada unsolicited, said we will admit British goods to our markets on more favorable terms than those of foreign nations. At the instance of the government the Dominion parliament passed a bill giving British goods a preference of 25 per cent. which was afterwards increased to 33 1/3 per cent. Canada did not bargain in this instance, but said, we recognize what we owe to the mother country and we desire to show our appreciation of her by granting this proof of our regard as a voluntary act. This preference has produced the most magnificent results. You have only to take up the trade returns and you will see there that since the preference Canada has purchased more largely from Great Britain than before. But the greatest development has been in the other direction, for our export trade to Great Britain has enormously increased. This has been particularly the case in respect to agricultural products, the export of which has more than doubled. This is a very gratifying result and we would not be doing justice to the Dominion government if we did not add to this resolution some expression of our approval of what Canada has already done for preferential trade. I therefore move that the resolution be amended by adding to it the following words:

This House also desires to express its approval of the voluntary action of the government and parliament of Canada in extending a preference to the manufactures and products of the motherland, which was a great step forward along the line of imperial duty, and afforded most striking proof of the fact that the people of Canada were heartily in sympathy with the movement in favor of inter-imperial trade preference, which in the opinion of this House will be productive of most beneficial results, not only to the mother country but to all parts of the empire.

Hon. Mr. Labllois seconded the amendment.

Mr. Hazen Frustrated.

Mr. Hazen—I did not have the slightest intention of taking any part in this discussion, nor would I do so now but for the extraordinary conduct of the leader of the House in endeavouring to give a political turn to a resolution which had no such object. I join most heartily in the congratulations to the member for Carleton, and also to the member for Northumberland for their most admirable speeches in support of the resolution. It is practically the same resolution which was passed at the colonial conference and it was intended then that it should have been followed up by similar resolutions which were to be passed by the various public bodies and legislatures of the colonies. It was only proper therefore that this resolution should be passed by this House. It is idle to discuss the question of the benefits which would result from a mutual policy of preferential trade between the colonies and the mother country. That will be quite different from the jagged policy which gives everything and receives nothing in return.

I regret that the attorney general is trying by his amendment to turn this matter to a party advantage and desires to incur the resolution with an amendment which is intended to support the policy of the government at Ottawa from which he expects to get money to assist the embarrassed state of the province. In his most extraordinary speech he has referred to no facts or figures to support the claim with reference to the advantages of the Canadian preference. He says that our trade with Great Britain has increased and that is true enough, but when he says that the preference did it, to what does he attribute the fact that our trade with the United States has increased to a much greater extent. I would ask him how with a tariff that gives us no advantage in the British market it can be claimed that the preference has increased our exports. The increase of our exports to

Great Britain is due to the improvement in business, to the fact that the Canadian farmers are waking up to their opportunities and to the increased productiveness of the Dominion. It is absurd to say that our increased exports are due to a tariff which gives us no advantage in the British market. Give us an advantage in the markets of Great Britain and the result would be an immensely increased volume of trade, and we would soon be in a position to supply the United Kingdom with all the bread stuffs and other food products they would require without having to depend on the United States and Russia.

Mr. Osman Pleased.

Mr. Osman—I most congratulate the members for Carleton and Northumberland on their excellent speeches. I have heard them make many excellent addresses before in the committee on public accounts but none so good as the speeches of today. I am heartily in sympathy with the resolution and also with the amendment. I have followed this question with great interest and have sometimes had my hopes raised and at other times depressed. I feel that Mr. Chamberlain has made great sacrifices for the sake of preferential trade, but I think he was moved to do so by the action of the government at Ottawa. I hardly think it would be fair for us who are in sympathy with so great a movement to pass this resolution without expressing our approval of the action of the Dominion government.

Not for Chamberlain.

Hon. Mr. Hill—This is a subject in regard to which I differ from many persons. This imperial preference has become mixed up with a movement for a closer political alliance with the mother country involving larger responsibilities and a greater expenditure on military and naval purposes. I think that our present tie to Great Britain is the best possible, because it is loose and elastic. There was a time when the tie was closer; when the governor sent out from England to the colonies were actual rulers and when the people had very little to say in the government of the country. Then Upper and Lower Canada was seething with rebellion, but now since responsible government has been established the loyalty and attachment of the colonies to the mother country has been manifested in many ways. Witness the thousands of men sent out by the colonies to assist in the war in South Africa and four times as many could have been had if they had been needed. England can depend on the loyalty of her people across the sea. If there was such a feeling in a small war such as that in

(Continued on Fourth page.)

A man talks about owning his business. But, as a matter of fact his business owns him. His whole life is regulated by the demands of the business. The time at which he rises, his breakfast hour, the time given to meals, are all determined by business obligations. He rushes through lunch because he "can't spare the time from business" to eat leisurely. He won't take a rest because he is needed at the store or office. He is in an absolute slave to business. The results which follow this slavery are to be seen on every hand. Men dyspeptic, irritable, nervous, with drawn faces, and hollow eyes, sit at the desk or stand behind the counter until they collapse in a fit of sickness, or are taken away by heart failure. Those who cannot escape the exactions of business will find a friend in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, increases the action of the blood-making glands, increasing the vitality and physical vigor. It makes men strong and prevents those business break downs which so often terminate fatally.

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