

Calendar for March 1898 showing days of the week and dates.

The Daily Examiner

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THE SITUATION.

ABLY REVIEWED BY SENATOR FERGUSON.

Overwhelming Arraignment of the Government.

(Continued from Hansard.)

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said:—When the House rose, yesterday afternoon, I was speaking of the presentation of the Cobden medal to the premier of Canada during his visit to Great Britain last year, and I was pointing out that that medal was presented to the right hon. gentleman with what might be called a condition attached, which I learned from my hon. friend the Secretary of State in this House the other day, is about to be violated. The condition was that if the Cobden Club, speaking through the mouth of Lord Farrar, believed that the object and intention of the government of Canada in obtaining the denunciation of the German & Belgian treaties was to give a preference to Great Britain, they would not have been there. Yet the hon. gentleman accepted the medal. Now, I have to carry that point further, and take the position that the right hon. gentleman must have known when he heard that condition expressed that he could not comply with it, because it was at least one month earlier, viz., on the 24th of June that the meeting of the Premier took place in London, and on the opening Mr. Chamberlain explained to that conference (I have the official report in my hands) that it would be necessary for the government of Canada to change what they call the reciprocal offer of last year, because even if the German and Belgian treaties were denounced, the favoured-nations clause in the treaties with other countries would still remain and under its operations Canada could not give a preference to any foreign country without granting the same favor to all nations having by a treaty a right to most favoured treatment. He (Mr. Chamberlain) pointed out, that in case of Holland if a preference was given to her, other countries would have a like privilege, and he explained to the premier of Canada and to the others that it would be absolutely necessary either to go back on that Canadian reciprocal resolution altogether, or to confine the preference to Great Britain and her colonies. The only opening for the hon. premier to get out of the position in which he is placed with regard to the accepting of that medal is that he may have, at that moment, intended to go back entirely on the reciprocal resolution and not to give a preference to Great Britain at all. If that was his position when he accepted the medal he maintained his honor that far, but I cannot conceive how he can continue to retain his honor and at the same time retain the medal when his colleague the Secretary of State has announced in his House the intention of the government is to confine that preference to Great Britain.

But I take other grounds to show that the premier is not entitled to wear that Cobden medal. I take the ground that in Canada his party do not claim to-day that they are standing on free trade principles. It would be folly for them, before the people of this country, or anyone who knows the history of their tariff, or the effect of the tariff, to say that it is a free trade measure. It is by no means a free trade tariff. That my hon. friend from Halifax pointed out some respects in which it is not a free trade tariff. He said the manufacturers were protected enough. He acknowledged the principle of protection was in the tariff, and he thought they had enough protection, and there might be a duty of 5 per cent imposed on raw material; and he pointed out another notable instance of the way this tariff is not only protective, but extremely protective, and this is in the matter of coal oil. It is notorious that in the contest which took place in Centre Toronto not very long ago, the candidate and the speakers in the interest of the government, claimed that the government had given the manufacturers a strong protection, which was to be continued. Therefore I claim that, apart altogether from the condition which Lord Farrar attached to that medal having been violated by the announcement made by the Secretary of State, the policy of the government in the shaping of their tariff, and the effect of their tariff in Canada, precludes the hon. gentlemen from honourably wearing the medal presented to him by the Cobden Club. In connection with that, and before passing from it—and that is the only further reference I intend to make to that question—I want to say that I think the present government are entitled to commiseration on account of the position they occupy with regard to the tariff and its protective character. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition in the House read to you extract after extract of speeches of almost every leading man in the ranks of that government, when he was in opposition, telling the country what he was going to do in the way of demolishing protection—eliminate every vestige of protection—cut the head off protection and trample on its body—this villainous system of legalized robbery—scoundrels great and scoundrels small—applied to the manufacturers of the country were made as fly like rockets in our political atmosphere for 18 years. A chorus against protection was raised by the present members of the government when they were in opposition, and it was joined in by their speakers and writers and the press, for a great many years, and culminated in their Ottawa platform, as we all know. In the face of that, we have, today, a strong protective tariff, almost as much so as the Conservative party would desire. In view of all these facts, and in view of this position which the Government occupies today, it would be interesting to recall a warning and prediction made by Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Trade and Commerce, a solemn warning which he uttered to his own party only two or three years ago in connection with this very subject. Here is what the hon. gentleman said: "There are two lessons which I think the Reformers of Canada should learn. One is presented for our example and warning in the fate that has befallen the Democratic party in the United States. It shows to all who choose to read the signs of the

times, that when a party places itself at the head of a great popular movement, if the party tenders a stone instead of bread, it is half-hearted in the prosecution of the great aim it sets before it, and will be deservedly swept out of power by the very people who would have sustained and advanced it."

That is a prediction which the Minister of Trade and Commerce made himself, a solemn warning which he uttered to the members of his party, and I feel assured that it was a truthful and ominous warning, and the hon. gentleman, if he does not get out of the boat, will find the rate overtake him which he predicted would overtake all public men who, after having put themselves at the head of a great popular movement, would go back upon it, ignore it, and trample it under their feet. Now, we have heard a great deal about the denunciation of these treaties, and it is claimed that the government have given evidence of a very great amount of statesmanship by the course they have pursued in regard to this matter. When the so-called reciprocal resolution was submitted to the House of Commons last April by Mr. Fielding, the conservative leaders in the House of Commons at once told him and the premier across the floor of the House of Commons that they were proposing an unconstitutional resolution and one which they could not carry out. They warned them if they persisted in that resolution it would become the duty of the Governor General to withhold his assent from it; that it was impossible for the Governor General to assent to such a resolution. They based that opinion on the despatch of Lord Ripon of June, 1895. Any one would have thought it was so plain that school boys would have known its meaning and would have governed themselves accordingly. He said: "For this reason and in order to prevent inconveniences, it will be desirable of such preferential duties are included in a general tariff bill, that a proviso should be added that they are not to come into operation until her Majesty's pleasure had been signified."

Here was the instruction that was addressed to the Governor General of Canada and the governor of every colony in the British Empire. It was a circular despatch in which they had the plainest orders set before them that they were not to give Her Majesty's assent to any bill which contained preference of any kind. In the face of that, the government went on for weeks, ignoring all that was said to them and arguing that their proposal did not come under the terms of Lord Ripon's despatch at all. They set up two contentions: first that these treaties—the German and Belgian—did not apply to us, because Canada had not been consulted and Canada had not ratified those treaties as a separate colony of the empire. The second ground was that the proposition did not mean a preference at all; it was simply a reciprocal provision, and for both these reasons or either of them, the German and Belgian treaties did not apply. The Hon. Sir Louis Davies, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who became the mouthpiece of the government in regard to this matter, said this: "When this resolution was tabled the hon. gentlemen (referring to Sir Charles Tupper) declared it an illegal and unconstitutional resolution. Can he lay his finger upon a single paragraph published in any newspaper of weight in the world endorsing that extravagant statement of his? Can he produce the opinion of a prominent lawyer or even of a flinging lawyer endorsing the absurd and ridiculous statement made by him that the resolution was unconstitutional and illegal?"

This was the declaration of the mouthpiece of the government. Shortly afterwards, however, they actually brought down an amendment which partly removed the difficulty and which showed they had no confidence in their own contention. It extends the provisions of the resolution to all nations with which Great Britain had treaties in regard to trade. With that provision attached, the royal assent would be given to it, but they still contended that the German and Belgian treaties did not apply to Canada and even if they did apply in general they did not apply to this provision because it was a reciprocal provision and was not in the nature of a preference to any country in particular,—they I would have to earn this advantage by making a tariff as low as our. This was the argument and with that argument

2 3 ?

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the premier left for England. What do we find? We find that the law lords decided against the government. They say those treaties with Belgium and Germany were denounced on account of this resolution that our Parliament had passed. It is significant however that the treaties were denounced before the English law lords heard the argument of the Canadian representatives. I do not pretend to say that that resolution was altogether without weight in the consideration of the entire question. It may be that it was detrimental in some respects. I will prove that it was regarded as a detriment to the abrogation of the treaties by some men, and assurances had to be given that there was no danger before they were denounced. By some the Canadian resolution may have been regarded as an auxiliary, but we have it from Mr. Chamberlain himself, in the report of the conference and from a subsequent speech made by him, that when he received the resolution of the conference—the unanimous resolution of the conference—asking for the denunciation of the treaties which hampered the rights of the colonies to give preference to Great Britain, he laid the matter seriously before the government and the government decided to denounce these treaties.

(To be Continued.)

SURPRISE PARTY AT CRAPAUD.

A grand and pleasant surprise party took place last evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Wadman, Crapaud, when about forty members of Wadman Division Sons of Temperance, assembled bringing baskets full of overflowing with all the delicacies imaginable. After supper the audience was entertained with a splendid programme, including speeches, readings and recitations by members of the Division. Miss Anna J. Newson, and Miss Campbell presided at the organ, and rendered choice selections of music at intervals. Brother Wadman was taken by surprise when he was presented with the following address:

On behalf of the members of Wadman Division we hand you this present as a token of the esteem and regard, the members have for you, Mrs Wadman and daughter and more especially the interest you have taken in the cause of temperance in connection with our Division at Gamble's Corner, wishing you and your family every success.

We are yours sincerely, CHARLES E. FRANCIS, M. M. ROGERSON, EVA GAMBLE.

Brother Wadman, on rising to respond was vigorously applauded, speaking for some time, thanking the committee on behalf of the members for their expression and good will and the motive which prompted them to give this valuable gift, he assured them greatly appreciated.

Cheers for Wadman Division, the committee who prepared the programme and the sisters who provided the baskets, and the singing of the National Anthem, brought to a close the most enjoyable party ever held in this part of the country.

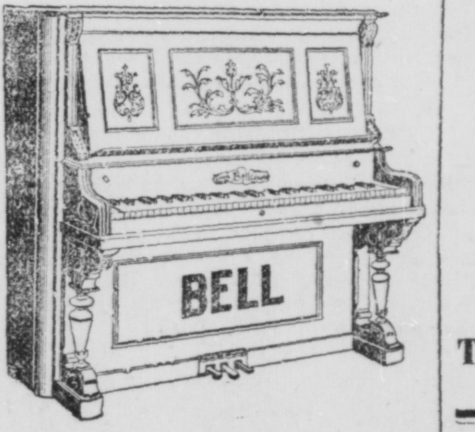
PROHIBITION.

Crapaud, March 3.

The Government has been asked to enforce the prohibition of intoxicating liquors in the Yukon. Liquors can only be imported and sold there under special permits. At present these permits are taxed to the extent of 25 cents per gallon of the liquor they represent. The reply of the Government to the prohibitionists is the announcement that liquor sold under permit must pay at the rate of \$2 per gallon. This is in addition to the ordinary Customs or inland revenue tax. The liquor policy of the Yukon appears to be high license rather than prohibition.

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JOHN NEWSON, The Real Bargain Giver. SPECIAL Shoe Bargains. 35 pairs Ladies' Dongola Oxford Shoes at \$1, reduced m \$1.25 and \$1.35; sizes 3 to 5. 25 pairs Ladies' buttoned Laced Dongola Boots; reduced to \$1 and \$1.25; sizes, 3 to 7. These are snaps and will not last long at the price. Stewart & CO