

that a perfectly independent position in my arguments may be received with less prejudice than would attach to those of a party leader.

Accordingly, I suggest that you should limit the present policy of the Government to ascertaining our freedom in the case of all commercial relations with foreign countries, and that you agree to my tendering my resignation of my present office in the Majesty and devoting myself to the work of popularizing these principles of imperial union which my experience has convinced me are essential to our future welfare and prosperity. Yours very sincerely,

J. CHAMBERLAIN. 10 DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL, S.W. 1. Sept. 16, 1903.

MY DEAR CHAMBERLAIN: I did not answer your letter of the 9th, which I received shortly before my departure from Scotland for the cabinet meeting, as I know you should within a few hours have an opportunity of talking over the important issues with which it deals. The reply, therefore, which I am now writing rather embodies the results of our conversations than that of anything which is new.

"Agreeing, as I do, with you that the time has come when a change should be made in the fiscal policy by which we have bound ourselves in our commercial dealings with other governments, it seems paradoxical, indeed, that you should leave the Cabinet at the same time that others of my colleagues are leaving it who disagree on the very point with you both.

Yet I cannot but admit, however reluctantly, that there is some force in the arguments with which you support the present relation to the portion of the controversy which deals with colonial preference.

You have done more than any man living or dead to bring home to the citizens of the empire the consciousness of imperial obligation and the interdependence between the various fragments into which the empire is geographically divided.

I believe you to be right in holding that the interdependence should find expression in our commercial relations as well as in our political and military relations.

I believe with you that closer fiscal union between the mother country and the Colonies would be good for the trade of both, and that if such closer union could be established on fitting terms its advantages to both parties would increase as the years went on and as the Colonies grew in wealth and population.

There has been no difference between us in connection with this matter it has only been with regard to the practicability of a proposal which would seem to require on the part of the Colonies a limitation in all-round development of a protective policy, and on the part of this country the establishment of a preference in favor of Colonial products.

The conservative and pro-Chamberlain Post says the resignation, which is perhaps the most original in history, is a sign to all men that the former Colonial Secretary is in earnest and will "fight it out on this line." Such confidence, it says, is half the battle.

The resignation will win him the hearts of his countrymen, who for years have been looking for a statesman who dared to risk himself and his prospects on his convictions.

The Daily Chronicle, the principal Liberal organ, says it cannot understand why there were not more resignations from the Cabinet. It warns the public that Mr. Chamberlain has only retired because he can thereby best promote his scheme.

His policy, which avowedly has Mr. Balfour's approval, is to gradually break the country into a general system of protection, while the Premier remains in office in order to bring the public opinion to the desired juncture for the same object by promoting the policy of retaliation set forth in the recent pamphlet.

The radical Daily News, which is not only bitterly opposed to Mr. Chamberlain's policy, but habitually treats him as the personal incarnation of Satan, says the wrong and injustice of the past eight years have brought a rebuff to the Government, more than it has conceived, and they have brought it through the agency of a man who has been the evil influence of the back of all.

Mr. Chamberlain, it says, has wrecked the Tory party and pulled the whole fabric of Unionism to the dust. The present generation will not see it re-erected.

"But," says the paper in conclusion, "Mr. Chamberlain has also wrecked himself. The career whose memorial a shameful wreck of the wreck of two historic parties closed. His letter to Balfour is the letter of a gambler who has thrown his last coin and lost."

The Times eulogizes Mr. Chamberlain as the greatest of the imperial patriots Great Britain has yet produced, because he has faith in the Empire. It expresses the belief that, paradoxical as it may seem, the policy and position of the Government may in some respect be strengthened rather than weakened by the course adopted by the Colonial Secretary.

In regard to filling the vacancies in the Cabinet there is little to be said at present. It is understood that Mr. Balfour, who has gone to Scotland, will visit the King, who is at Balmoral, at an early date. But some days perhaps will pass before any announcements are made.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Duke of Devonshire will go to Scotland on Friday and will, it is expected, visit His Majesty.

There is a general expectation that the reconstruction of the Cabinet will bring the promotion of Austen Chamberlain, the present Postmaster-General. It is thought also that Mr. Alick Douglas will leave the Home Office and may succeed Mr. Ritchie as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is obvious that the crisis makes it possible, if not probable, that there will be an early general election. There is considerable confidence in regard to this in Liberal quarters.

"An appeal to the country," says the News, "cannot be delayed beyond the autumn. The Liberal party must be prepared for instant battle. Mr. Chamberlain has delivered the enemy into our hands, and no power on earth can save them."

The Conservative press, on the other hand, mentions Charles Ritchie, Chamberlain of the Exchequer, Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the Council, and one or two free trade Ministers, as likely to resign in consequence of Mr. Balfour's adhesion to the Chamberlain tariff scheme, which everybody construed his pamphlet to mean.

The Westminster Gazette, which is the most important of the anti-Chamberlain evening papers, speaking of the Colonial Secretary said: "Whoever also resigns, at all events will stay and abate nothing of his food taxes and preferences. The two Ministers are working together on concerted lines, the Premier dissolving prejudice for the established policy and the Colonial Secretary supplying the new policy."

The official communication was issued from Downing street at a late hour to the newspapers and agencies on the express condition that the contents should not be

distributed at the clubs or other resorts or on the tickers in other words, that the communications should appear only in the morning papers.

It is needless to say that the report of the Secretary's resignation leaked out in the form of a rumor, but in view of its extreme improbability, it was not widely spread. Notwithstanding, however, that it was wholly unanticipated, there is widespread commendation of the course the Colonial Secretary has taken.

The Ministerial Standard, which opposed with almost Radical vehemence the preferential tariff proposal, now says Mr. Chamberlain has taken the only course open to a honorable, high-spirited politician. From the moment he definitely committed himself to the scheme of food taxation he stood in a false position. He has now released his colleagues from a position which had become one of considerable embarrassment.

The paper goes on to say that his ungrudging admission that his scheme failed to commend itself to the constituencies does credit to his sense of honor and political discernment. In devoting himself as a private individual to explaining and popularizing the preferential scheme he can do no harm, for the more it is considered the less likelihood is there that it will meet with popular approval. The Standard continues:

"Something at any rate is gained by the release of the Cabinet from this unhappy controversy. We hope the Ministers will shake themselves free of the disturbing and settle down to normal business. There should be no occasion for any more resignations."

The Daily Telegraph, a Ministerial organ, gives high praise to what it describes as a great act of self denial. Mr. Chamberlain, it says, having set up for himself a great imperial idea, determined that no personal considerations should stand in the way of its realization. The correspondence between him and Mr. Balfour is unique of its kind.

"It retounds," says the Telegraph, "not only to their credit but to the honor of the country. From beginning to end there is not a note of self-seeking or personal ambition."

The Daily Mail, which aims to reach the masses and is very hostile to Mr. Chamberlain's preferential scheme, pays a hearty tribute to the avowal of the Colonial Secretary to the Empire and expresses admiration for the characteristic pluck and decision with which he freed both the Government and himself. It was, it says, his only course open to him and it is well that he has taken the step.

"His loss," the paper says, "is almost a coup de grace to the present vacillating Ministers, but his country has no especial cause to regret the nearer approach of their day of reckoning."

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MANY FISHERMEN WERE LOST.

FULTON MARKET FLEET HAD HIT BY WEDNESDAY'S STORM.

Two of the Five Yankee Skippers Among Those Drowned—One Boat Foundered and Four Are Missing—Flags at Half Mast on the Boats Now in Port.

Before the ferocious little cyclone of Wednesday smashed things afloat and ashore there were five Yankee skippers commanding fishing schooners that tie up at Fulton Market piers. Now there are only three. The two others were drowned on Wednesday, with many other fishermen of the fleet.

Four of the boats are missing and one is known to have foundered.

Of the sixty or more skippers most are Scandinavians or Portuguese. They are all American citizens, and many of them are as clever as their ancestors who assisted in the discovery of America. The natives regret that old-fashioned American names are disappearing from the roster of fishermen.

But every one of the thirty-five storm battered smacks at Fulton Market yesterday flew at half mast below main mast, the ensign of Uncle Sam, and there wasn't a Scandinavian or a Portuguese aboard who wasn't as sorry as any native.

Foremost among the dead was Silas P. Latham, skipper and part owner of the Ester Anita of New London. The flags spoke for him more eloquently, perhaps, than for any one else. He was a grizzled sea rover of sixty-five, and every fisherman who ever set sail with him swore by his luck.

He was a silent man except when the subject was theology, and then he waxed eloquent. One Yankee crew said he cared nothing for God, devil or man, and had no fear even of the sea which finally overwhelmed him. He was a character in his town of Noank, Conn., where he lives a widower.

With about fifteen other vessels, varying in length from 90 to 100 feet, Capt. Latham's little ship was bludgeoned by the sea. After an ineffectual effort to claw off shores he dropped anchor, paying out 100 fathoms of cable. His anchor held, but the vessel's stanch snuck back. The combers roared aboard. One of them, rising 20 feet or more over the bow, smashed into the vessel's side, and the ship was sent spinning on her beam ends.

Capt. Latham, who had taken the wheel himself, and his mate, William Wilcox and crew, were alongside him. They were swept into the ferment. The rest of the crew, about twelve men, sought safety in the rigging, and the anchor dragged. The vessel was lifted by the wind and saved the fishermen.

Within half a mile of the Ester Anita was the low-lying 70-footer M. A. Bacon, Capt. John Montgomery in command. The vessel leaves a little brood of Yankee children. He had been in mist and fog for two days and had lost his reckoning.

He thought he was in the near neighborhood of the Delaware capes when the blast struck him and he decided to put into Delaware Breakwater for safety.

He had stripped the vessel and saved a double-breasted foresail, which barely kept him up in the gale, and tried to work offshore. In the driving rain the direction of the wind shifted and he drifted directly ahead. To clear the wreck he was forced to wear ship to get on the other tack. In doing so the Boston was rocked by a comber that, according to the Steamship William Raynor, towered twenty-five feet above the smack's deck.

It swept away Capt. Morgan and Ned Petersen, who was assisting him at the wheel. One man saved himself by grabbing the end of the main boom as he ascended the rigging. The other was carried into the sea and the others carried into the light of the reefed sail.

Men in the rigging saw the skipper rise and look toward the vessel. The vessel was the tumult. Petersen, as he came to the surface, shouted: "Out loose a dory!" Then he, too, disappeared. Every dory was crowded with men, and many of them, unable to make headway against the hurricane, the men of the skipper's boat led to the anchor, and the vessel was shifted, then made sail and came to port.

The Geneva Merit, hailing from Gloucester, but at present a Fulton Market smack, lost a crew of twelve men. The skipper, William M. Giffney, and known to his shipmates as "Maxwell," which wasn't his name.

From the appearance of the masts of the Gloucester, it was thought she carried a crew of about twenty men, all of whom doubtless were lost. The skipper, William M. Giffney, and known to his shipmates as "Maxwell," which wasn't his name.

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INDICTED FOR POSTAL FRAUDS.

The Names of the Indicted Persons Will Not Be Disclosed Until Their Arrest.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The Federal Grand Jury here to-day returned three additional indictments in connection with the postal frauds. Until the arrest of the persons indicted the authorities will keep their names and the charges from becoming public property.

The Post Office Department thought there was undue haste in making known the fact that McGiehan and Huntington of New York had been indicted, as they had not at that time been arrested. It was explained that there was nothing to prevent their escape to Canada and making a fight against extradition.

The same thing happened in connection with the indictment of Eugene Scheble, a cleric, and former Inspector Edwin of San Francisco. Scheble was not arrested for several days after the public knew that he was indicted. He was not arrested until yesterday, though the indictment against him was returned over a week ago.

The only information obtainable in regard to to-day's action is that the three indictments are against two persons, one of whom is now under indictment, and the other being a person who was more than the customary attorney in the office of the District Attorney to-day in preparing the papers and issuing the indictments. It is expected that an arrest will be made to-morrow.

McGIEHAN AND THE PATENT OFFICE. Isaac S. McGiehan of this city, who was indicted recently by the Grand Jury on the charge of having paid A. W. Machen, former Superintendent of the Free Delivery Service, 50 cents on every letter mailed, was indicted to-day by the Columbia Supply Company, of which McGiehan is president, made an explanation yesterday touching allegations that McGiehan had received a patent from the Commissioner of Patents, had permitted McGiehan to practise before him since June, 1900, in spite of the fact that McGiehan was not a resident of the District of Columbia, and that McGiehan had been indicted. It is expected that an arrest will be made to-morrow.

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