

### LIBERALS DESTROY THE PREFERENCE.

So much for the Liberal myth of loyalty and the British preference. Let us examine another phase of that party's attitude towards closer commerce with Britain.

In 1896 more than 61 per cent. of Canada's total imports were from Great Britain; in 1908 the percentage had fallen to 27. In 1896, of the imports coming into Canada free of duty, 22 per cent. came from Great Britain. In 1908 free imports from Britain had dropped to 17 per cent. During the same period free imports from the United States rose from 64 per cent. to 70 per cent. What do these figures mean? Simply that the Laurier Government, notwithstanding all its professions about the British preference, adopted an attitude of gradual hostility towards freer trade with the Mother Country while all the time making concessions to the United States. Yet in its leading editorial on the War Budget the Globe went so far from the truth as to say that "for the first time since 1896 a Canadian Government had raised the tariff against Great Britain."

### RAISED THE TARIFF AGAINST BRITAIN.

But what are the facts? Between 1900 and 1907 the Laurier Government raised the preferential rate on more than two dozen commodities of vital importance to the consumer. It raised the preferential rate on dry white lead from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 per cent.; white lead in oil from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 per cent.; drain tiles from  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to 15 per cent.; sewer pipes from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; monuments from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 per cent.; cotton fabrics from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; coloured cotton from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; sewing thread from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; clothing from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; twine and cordage from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 per cent.; bags, jute and cotton seamless from  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to 15 per cent.; wool cloth from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 per cent.; wool clothing from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 per cent.; socks and stockings from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; door mats from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; carpets from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; oil-cloth from 20 to 25 per cent.; caps and hats from 20 to  $22\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; collars and cuffs from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 per cent.; silk clothing from  $23\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 per cent.; paints from  $16\frac{1}{2}$  to 20 per cent.; varnishes from  $13\frac{1}{2}$  cents per gallon to 20 cents per gallon.

### COUNTERFEIT LOYALTY OF LAURIERISM.

Thus it will be seen that not only did the Liberals take away from the Motherland the preference they had given her, but they actually taxed several important articles at a higher rate than had ever obtained before. Yet this is the party that is indulging in mock heroics to-day over the British preference. He would be a fool indeed who would be misled by the counterfeit loyalty of Laurierism.