

market in Great Britain. That is the answer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The PRIME MINISTER. I see that my hon. friends on the other side do not yet appreciate the answer. Well, Sir, I would like to hear hon. gentlemen opposite say whether they are in favour of, or against the preferential tariff. That is the question I would like them to answer at this moment. We have recently gone through a very severe campaign in which, so far as I know, everything was discussed by hon. gentlemen opposite; but when they came to discuss the question of the preferential tariff, they were neither for nor against it.

Mr. MACLEAN. I am against a one-sided one.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is one man on that side of the House who is against it. I understand that my hon. friend had some aspirations for the leadership, and perhaps that is the reason why he is not in favour of the preferential tariff. Perhaps his views were not acceptable to his followers. He has given his explanation why he is sitting in the particular seat he now occupies.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition also referred to some opinions which had been expressed by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), as to the causes of the prosperity of this country. My hon. friend from North Norfolk is able at all times to take care of himself, and it would not do for me to offer any explanation of his words. I rely upon him to do so at the proper time. But while my hon. friend was able to quote the opinion expressed by my hon. friend from North Norfolk, he did not favour the House with any opinion of his own on this question; and I may say that we would be more interested to know the opinion of my hon. friend than the opinion of my hon. friend from North Norfolk since he has expressed it. However, we are at the opening of the session, and perhaps at some other time my hon. friend will take the House into his confidence, and will tell us, as frankly as my hon. friend from East York has done, what he thinks of the preferential tariff. My hon. friend from East York, a stalwart of the stalwarts, says: 'I am against the preferential tariff.'

Mr. MACLEAN. No, no—a one-sided preferential tariff.

The PRIME MINISTER. There are some things which my hon. friend the leader of the opposition might have discussed which he did not discuss. My hon. friend never referred, for instance, to the late elections; and in this respect his speech of this afternoon is in marked contrast to the speeches which we heard during the last session and the previous session. Why, during last session, everybody who was in this House

will remember that there never was a day when we were not challenged to bring on the elections. We were dared to dissolve parliament, we were told that we had lost the confidence of the country and that as soon as we would dissolve the House and appeal to the country we would be swept out of existence. Well we took these gentlemen at their word, parliament was dissolved, the day of the battle came, but the result was far different from what these hon. gentlemen expected. I shall not speak on that point at any length, but I may be permitted to quote the language which the late Mr. Disraeli used on a somewhat similar occasion. He was speaking of the position of the government of Lord Derby, not after a general election, but after a vote of parliament, and this is how he characterized it:

It was like a convulsion of nature rather than any ordinary transaction of human life. I can only liken it to one of those earthquakes which take place in Calabria or Peru. There was a rumbling murmur, a groan, a shriek, a sound of distant thunder. No one knew whether it came from the top or the bottom of the House. There was a rent, a fissure in the ground, and then a village disappeared; then a tall tower toppled down; and the whole opposition benches became one great dissolving view of anarchy.

This is a true picture of the last election, but as my hon. friend did not allude to it, I will not discuss it any further.

My hon. friend wanted to have information on some three or four different matters. First of all he wanted to know the intention of the government with regard to pensions to the wounded soldiers who were disabled in South Africa, and afterwards by my hon. friend from Dundas (Mr. Broder) wanted to know what would be done for one of those heroes in particular. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition seemed to think that the omission to refer to this matter in the speech from the Throne was due to inadvertence. No, Sir, it was an intended omission, and this is the reason. We do not know exactly in what position we stand at present with regard to the imperial authorities in this matter. My hon. friend knows that in the despatch sent last October, and on which we acted, the British authorities announced that they themselves would deal with this subject, and I would again call the attention of my hon. friend to that despatch in which he will find his answer. It went on to say:

The condition of pay, pensions, transport, &c.: Whilst noting the generous offer of the government of New Zealand to furnish pay in addition to transport, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the same conditions should be applied in the case of each colony, namely, every colonial force should be landed at the port of debarkation in South Africa fully equipped at the cost of the colonial government or other body furnishing the force; the Imperial government to provide from that date pay at Imperial rates, supplies and ammunition, and to defray the cost of trans-