

parliament in 1904. He never, subsequent to that year, departed from the position he then took. First he quoted the resolution moved in 1899 by Sir Charles Tupper and then said, page 4747, Hansard 1904:-

"I want to tell this House, speaking with whatever authority I may possess, that the Conservative party has not changed its policy on this point since 1899 when a resolution proposed by Sir Charles Tupper was voted down by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. We are prepared to stand by the words of the resolution now as we did then."

*How can Bennett deal with this? An. D.?*

In later years, Sir Robert dealt with the preference time and again. He was opposed to any preference unless it was mutual -- unless the United Kingdom granted a preference to Canada in return. It was Sir Robert who coined the phrase recently re-printed and put into political circulation by Mr. Bennett, that, "A woollen mill in Canada is as valuable an asset to the Empire as a woollen mill in Yorkshire."

Mr. Meighen.

After Sir Robert retired, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen was chosen leader of the Conservative party. Under Mr. Meighen, the opposition to the preference was continued. In fact Mr. Meighen developed a new line of attack, as his statements prove. For the first time, the Conservatives advanced the principle that regardless of whether Great Britain granted a preference to Canada, no preference should be extended by Canada on any article which might be manufactured in this Dominion.

Mr. Meighen stated his policy in parliament by formal resolution on June 2, 1925, when he moved an amendment to a motion to go into supply. The following paragraph dealt with the preference:-

"That while every effort should be directed toward the establishment of a system of preference for preference within the Empire, no preference should be given at the expense of the Canadian worker and all preferences should be conditional on the use of Canadian ports."

Mr. Meighen in his speech, developed his policy in detail. He said, page 3805, Hansard:-

"The resolution also calls for the encouragement of a policy of preference within the Empire, but in every case subject to the proviso that no preference shall be given at the expense of the workers of Canada. In a word, the first and immovable consideration in the determining of every tariff, preferential or otherwise, should be that it provides what is essential by way of protection to the Canadian worker. If no preference can be given say at the expense of him, I would give no preference at all. I would follow the policy of the United States and give no preference to anybody."