

ily be understood by everyone who understands the constitutional law on the question."

Speaking three months later, Mr. Tarte explained what his own feelings I read in the cables from the other side were at the time. He said: "When that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had issued a circular inviting the colonies to send troops to South Africa, I will frankly admit that I did not feel any very strong inclination to comply with his wishes."

OPPOSITION LEADER SPEAKS.

These deliverances state the feelings and intentions of the Premier and of that colleague of his who is supposed to have the most influence over him. But the attempt of the Prime Minister to suppress the loyal movement that was growing stronger day by day proved a failure. One day after Sir Wilfrid caused his statement to be published in the *Globe*, Sir Charles Tupper sent a telegram to him from Yarmouth, N. S., and at the same time explained his own attitude at a public meeting there. The following is the message:

Yarmouth, N.S., October 5.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa:

I hope you will send a contingent of Canadian volunteers to aid England in the Transvaal. I know it will be warmly welcomed by the British Government, be of great service to Canada, and promote the unity of the Empire. A friend of mine will insure the lives and limbs, at his expense, to a million dollars, and I will heartily support in Parliament your action in this matter.

(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

It may be stated here that the insurance arrangement promised was carried out and results in the payment of a thousand dollars to the family of each man of the first contingent who falls in battle or dies of his wounds, with further payments to men who are disabled. *La Patrie* contained a statement signed by Mr. Tarte in which he said: "I am in a position to give you the most positive assurance that the Government has not come to any decision relative to the sending of a military corps to the Transvaal. The merits of the dispute between England and the Transvaal are one thing, the interference of Canada in the foreign wars of the Empire is another. It is thought to create a precedent which would have for result the compulsory participation in the future of Canada, in any and all the conflicts which may sweep over Europe and over the various parts of the world in which the large European governments are interested."

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

On the question of preferential trade Mr. Maxwell had talked sentiment of such a character that it was useful to fall back upon. Edward Burke's reply to Oswald: "I yield to none in my loyalty to His Majesty and to this throne but I am not bound to extend this same feeling to His Majesty's man-servant, his maid-servant, his ox or his ass, or anything that is his." (Laughter.) It was delightful to listen to lessons of loyalty from men who had advocated Unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States and a tariff directly discriminating against the Mother Land.

THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY.

What is our policy? The Toronto Board of Trade passed a resolution affirming the policy in the strongest and most emphatic terms, and suggesting precisely how, in their opinion, it should be carried out. That resolution read as follows: Resolved, that, in the opinion of this conference, the advantage to be obtained by a closer union between the various portions of the British Empire are so great as to justify an arrangement as nearly as possible of the nature of a Zollverein, based upon principles of the freest exchange of commodities within the Empire, consistent with the tariff requirements incident to the maintenance of the local government of each kingdom, dominion, province or colony, now forming part of the British family."

Mr. Chamberlain said as to this:

"If they (the colonies) desire, as we desire, and as we believe they do, this closer union—if they are willing to make some sacrifice of their present arrangements and convictions in order to secure it—let them say so. Let the offer come voluntarily from them, and I believe it will be considered in this country, not in any huckstering spirit, but that it will be entertained as part of the great policy which is intended to unite in the closest bonds of affection and of interest all the communities which are under the British flag and all the subjects of Her Majesty throughout the world. Before the elections of 1896 we have a pledge of Laurier. This is what he said at London on the 17th of May, 1896: "In regard to this question of preferential trade, Mr. Laurier desired to say that Sir Charles Tupper was no more favorable to the idea than himself." He went on to say: "My hope is—nay, my conviction is—that on the 23rd of June the Liberal party will be at the head of the polls; and then it will be the Liberal party, with its policy of a revenue tariff, that will send commissioners to London to arrange for a basis of preferential