

her refusal to make the grant reciprocal and conditional, which blocked the Chamberlain proposals. Her historic attitude, or rather the attitude of the Liberal Party, has been summed up by Mr. Fielding in a recent brief memorandum:

"On this question Canada's position has been repeatedly been made clear, and I do not see any reason why it should be changed.

When our Preferential Tariff was first adopted (1897-8) the Conservative Party in Parliament opposed it, and held that preference should be mutual - that Canada should not make any tariff concession to Great Britain without receiving a corresponding preference on Canadian products. At one stage, in order to have a clear expression of Parliament, a resolution was moved in amendment to supply by Mr. Benjamin Russell (now Mr. Justice Russell) declaring the approval of the House of our preference to Great Britain. On this straight issue a division took place. Our Government accepted the amendment and all our friends supported it. The Conservative Party opposed it.

Our attitude has always been that the reductions of duties on British goods under the Preferential Tariff were granted in the interests of our own people. We had no objection to the granting of a preference by Great Britain, if she desired to allow it. Those in Canada who advocated a mutual preference had in mind preferential treatment of foodstuffs, which are our chief articles of export. Our Government recognized from the beginning that a proposal to tax foodstuffs in England was not likely to be agreed to and that for us to press for such a tax would be a serious embarrassment to the public men of the Mother Country. We, therefore, refused to make reciprocal concessions a condition of our preference.

In later years the Conservative Party practically accepted our position. They did not, during their term of office, introduce any change in relation to the British preference.....

For a long time the Dominions received no preference in Great Britain. In recent years a preference has been granted on a select list of articles. We of course willingly accepted any preference so granted, but we have not hitherto demanded and I presume will not demand as a right any reciprocal preference."

The situation in Canada has changed somewhat since 1903. On the one hand, the Canadian farmer is much more anxious about marketing his wheat; there was not in 1903 a threatened surplus of 200,000,000 bushels above world demand. On the other, the Canadian manufacturer is better equipped to meet home demands and more reluctant to share this market with British or any other