

which was received with greater satisfaction by the people of Canada, than that which was announced a year ago. Never in the history of the British colonies was a measure proposed which in so large a degree commanded the interest and received the approval of Great and Greater Britain. It was hailed with joy by the friends of British Imperial unity in every land. It was commended by Her Majesty in her Speech from the Throne in the Parliament at Westminster. It was the subject of thousands of articles of the most commendatory character, in the British and colonial press. Rudyard Kipling, the poet of the Empire, was quick to feel the wave of sentiment that passed over Great Britain, and within a few hours from the announcement of the tariff, he embalmed the subject in spirited lines which will live in the history of Canada, and which, even if, as some have thought, they may convey inaccurate impressions as to the coldness of our climate, will, nevertheless, tell to every reader that in 1897 the heart of "Our Lady of the Snows" was full of warmth and devotion to the interests of the Empire. British statesmen, both publicly and privately, expressed their satisfaction with Canada's action. The Colonial Secretary, the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, in an official despatch to His Excellency the Governor General, which I shall place on the Table, a despatch communicating the decision of Her Majesty's Ministers respecting the effect of the Belgian and German treaties—used some words which I may properly quote here :

"I desire," said Mr. Chamberlain, "to add, in conclusion, that the action of the Dominion Government and Parliament in this matter, although, unfortunately, its full effect will be temporarily postponed, has been warmly welcomed and appreciated by Her Majesty's Government and the people of this country as a measure which cannot fail to result in material benefit to the mother country and to Canada, and to weld together still more firmly the ties which now unite them."

Sir, the policy which Her Majesty's Government so warmly commended, was a policy designed to establish preferential trade between Canada and the mother country. To-day we submit a proposal which enlarges the sphere of that preferential trade. To-day we propose to include within its benefits a large group of British colonies, the affairs of which are at this moment a cause of much anxiety to Her Majesty's Government. Thus step by step the good work goes on. One step remains to be taken, and I believe the day is not far distant when we shall be able to take it—a step which will extend the benefits of the preference, not only to Great Britain and the colonies which we have now included, but to every colony and possession of the Empire.

The following are the resolutions :—

1. That it is expedient to repeal section six of "The Customs Tariff, 1897," and to substitute the following section therefor :—

6. The importation into Canada of any goods enumerated, described or referred to in Schedule "C" to this Act is prohibited; and any such goods imported shall thereby become forfeited to the Crown and may be destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Minister of Customs may direct; and any person importing any such prohibited goods, or causing or permitting them to be imported, shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding two hundred dollars.

2. That it is expedient to provide that section seventeen of "The Customs Tariff, 1897," shall be repealed on and after the first day of August in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and that the following section shall be substituted therefor :—

17. Articles which are the growth, produce or manufacture of any of the following countries may, when imported direct into Canada from any of such countries, be entered for duty or taken out of warehouse for consumption in Canada at the reduced rate of duty provided in the British preferential tariff set forth in Schedule "D" to this Act :—

- (a). The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- (b). The British Colony of Bermuda.
- (c). The British Colonies commonly called the British West Indies, including the following :—

The Bahamas.

Jamaica.

Turks Island and the Caicos Islands.

The Leeward Islands (Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis, Dominica, Monserrat, and the Virgin Islands).

The Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia).

Barbadoes

Trinidad and Tobago.

British Guiana.

- (d). Any other British Colony or possession the customs tariff of which, on the whole, is as favourable to Canada as the British preferential tariff herein referred to is to such colony or possession.

Provided, however, that manufactured articles to be admitted under such preferential tariff shall be bona fide the manufactures of a country or countries entitled to the benefits of such tariff, and that such benefits shall not extend to the importation of articles into the production of which there has not entered a substantial portion of the labour of such countries. Any question that may arise as to any articles being entitled to such benefits shall be decided by the Minister of Customs, whose decision shall be final.

2. The Minister of Customs, with the approval of the Governor in Council, shall determine what British colonies or possessions shall be entitled to the benefits of the preferential tariff under clause (d) of this section.

3. The Minister of Customs may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the intention of this section.

4. That it is expedient to provide that Schedule "D" to "The Customs Tariff, 1897," shall be repealed on and after the first day of August in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and that the following schedule shall be substituted therefor :—

#### SCHEDULE "D."

##### BRITISH PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

On articles the growth, produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom of Great Britain