

Kingdom.' What have hon. gentlemen opposite done? Instead of carrying out the pledge solemnly given by the first minister (Laurier) that as soon as he came into power he would address himself to this question of obtaining not differential, but preferential trade, which would give Canada enormous advantages, we find that question of preferential treatment with all its glowing prospects, thrust away and this miserable system of differential treatment undertaken."

Again at page 1291:-

"This differential tariff goes into operation and the industries of this country are already paralysed in consequence. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada."

Still further, page 1292:-

"I deplore from the bottom of my heart the ruin that is going to be inflicted upon the best interests of Canada and upon its great industries."

Sir Charles returned to the question with greater emphasis in 1898. He said, page 3298, Hansard, 1898:-

"What is preferential trade? It is the grandest, it is the greatest scheme that has ever been propounded or, in my judgment, ever will be propounded for promoting the unity of the Empire. It is a policy by which that most potent of all influences, whether as regards men or nations, can be brought into operation-- the policy of self interest. But this pretended policy of preferential trade, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) has offered us, this delusive policy that he has offered to England, is a farce compared with that great policy that would have made it the interest alike of Canada, of Australia, of South Africa, of all the great outlying colonies of the Empire, to take up this great question with a view of adopting a policy that would make self-interest a common bond between the colonies and the Empire, such a bond as can never be created in any other way. This proposal may be accepted, as any proposal would naturally be accepted, by Great Britain with the most effusive thanks, because it is a policy of giving everything for nothing."

In 1899 the Conservative party, under Sir Charles Tupper, moved the first formal resolution condemning the British preference as it was created and as it now exists. The resolution reads:-

"This House is of the opinion that a system of mutual trade preferences between Great Britain and Ireland and the Colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in commerce between these countries and would thus promote and maintain the unity of the Empire, and that nothing which falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory."

Sir Robert Borden.

So much for Sir Charles Tupper. The next leader of the Conservative party was Sir Robert Borden, who assumed the party purple in 1900. In defining the policy of the Conservative party on the preference, Sir Robert made a speech in