

butter; that our eggs are equal to the best they can get from France. (Applause.) And it remains for us to follow up these evidences of ability and skill to produce articles to suit the British taste by expanding that trade, and seeing that nothing but the best articles suitable to the British market are placed upon that market. (Hear, hear.) Nothing can be more damaging to Canada than to send inferior articles there. (Hear, hear.) There is a large market for Canadian fruit there if we go about it in the right way. I am not sure that I can say what the right way is, although I have some opinions about it that I never had before, which I have formed as a result of my observations while in Great Britain.

THE QUESTION OF PREFERENCE.

Another phase of the question is, "Will Britain give a preference to Canadian goods in the British market?" As I have said, many compliments were passed upon Canada because of the preference given to British goods in our markets. In Manchester I said, "Your markets are free to the Canadian producer. Thank you for free trade between Canada and Great Britain, between the members of your own family and the parent island, but you do as much for Russia and for Germany and for France, and all other countries, and in this way you treat your enemies in precisely the same way as you treat your friends." Is not that a good argument? I will not say that it was a conclusive argument in that it produced results, as John Bull is very conservative and sometimes does not act when he is convinced. (Laughter and applause.)

You may ask me if there is any strong feeling in England in favor of free trade? I would answer equivocally, "Yes" and "No."

AN UNDERCURRENT AT WORK.

I believe there is an undercurrent of public opinion in Great Britain which, if well directed, would soon change public opinion there to agree with public opinion in Canada. A public man in England is very much the same as a public man in Canada. He does not want to risk his neck in any propaganda or policy until he feels public opinion is to a certain extent with him. In England they have so well settled down in free trade theories that any man who asks that a slight duty be placed upon food products is looked upon as a heretic by the British public. The first thought that comes to a public man's mind there, as here, is, "If I advocate such a policy I am going against public opinion." But any man can easily find that there is a scepticism as to the soundness of absolute free trade as applied to the policy of Great Britain. I must not mention names, but I could, if I were at liberty to do so, give you the names of many prominent men who hesitated to pledge themselves as strongly to free trade as they might have done. I have no doubt in my own mind that many