

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** I am glad the hon. gentleman did come into the House, because I should not have ventured to say that unless he were present. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) told us last session, that he had given a preference to England, but what does he say now? He sees that he stands face to face with the fact, the startling and astounding fact—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** In saying this, I am only quoting the language of one of the most eulogistic papers this Government possesses. I refer to the London "Canadian Gazette," the columns of which are filled with the most fulsome flattery of this Government individually and collectively. This London "Canadian Gazette," the subsidized organ of this Government, on the 16th of September last, heads an article:

The tariff in operation.—A startling result. And it says:

The Canadian preferential tariff has now been in operation for four months, and what is the effect? We published the official figures last week for the year so far as expired, and let us see how the record of British exports to Canada stands for the four months at the lower tariff. The result is at first sight a startling one.

These are the words to which the hon. gentleman took exception, believing that they were mine; but they did not originate with me. They are taken from their own organ as a condemnation and exposure of what was done. They state that there has been a decline, and then they go on to give the amount of the decline month by month for May, June, July and August, totalling £171,565 sterling less than for the same period of the previous year. And yet this was the mighty boon given by the preferential tariff, which was to make everybody in England rich, and which caused such a wild fervour as to what this country was doing.

This is, we say, startling. It is certainly not what we had been led to expect.

And what was the result? The year closed with a decrease of \$3,567,554 of goods imported from England as compared with the previous year. That is the gigantic preference that was given to England. I might draw attention to another fact which is rather striking in view of the very bold, high tone taken by the Government in this House as to how they were going to treat the United States of America. They had met with a repulse there, and they came back here bursting with indignation, and threatened in tones of thunder on these benches what they were going to do to that country. They were going to treat every country as it treated Canada. Well, Sir, England treated this country with open arms, admitting everything that we could send to her without let or hindrance. She

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has taken millions more this year, without a farthing of duty, than she took in the previous year, although that was the greatest year for the exports of this country to the United Kingdom in the history of the country. And, Sir, what is the position of the United States? Why, Sir, while you have a decrease in our imports from England of over \$3,500,000, you have an increase of over \$3,000,000 in the imports from the United States, the country which you were going to teach to be careful how she offended this Government. Well, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister went down to Sheffield, where he made a speech and also gave an interview; and what did he say? Did he say that they had done it? No; he said they had not done it at all. He said:

In this way, not by any act of ours, but by the effect of these Imperial treaties, the preferential tariff as between England and the continental nations, came to an end. For the present, therefore, there is no preferential tariff in Canada for British goods.

That is the humiliating position the hon. gentleman was obliged to take there. But he gave them a little comfort at the same time, and I trust, for the honour of Canada and for the honour of the hon. gentleman himself, that his words will be made good. What did he say? Why, Sir, he said that when the treaties came to an end, then Canada would give Great Britain the preferential tariff—that as soon as the denunciation of the treaties occurred and took effect, on the first day of August next, the result would be that Canada would honourably carry out her proposal to give a preference to Great Britain. Am I correct in saying that the hon. gentleman in England led the British public to believe that would be the case—that when the denunciation of those treaties took place, the tariff of this country would give this preference to England?

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** My hon. friend is quite safe in assuming that any statements I made to the British public were entirely correct.

**Sir CHARLES TUPPER.** May I read something for the information of the hon. gentleman?—because I think he got a hint from an hon. gentleman not a hundred miles away from him to be very careful what he said; and it is evident that the advice was not lost upon him. He said:

After the first of August, 1898, the Belgian and German treaties will come to an end, and thus all obstacles to preferential arrangements between England and her colonies will disappear. Then the terms of the preferential tariff will apply to the products of Great Britain, and to such of her colonies as are willing to adopt a liberal trade policy towards Canada.

These were the words of the hon. gentleman, and as he says that what he said in England may be relied on with the utmost confidence—

**The MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Or in Canada.