

The treaties were abrogated by a process which is common in removing abuses, or in making amendments, or in getting changes which are for the public benefit, whether they be in the higher range of international politics or in the somewhat lower plane of local or provincial politics.

The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) cites an instance as to why the results of preferential trade must be beneficial to this country. Let me remind him that it is only partial preferential trade; that is, we have given a preference to Great Britain, but Great Britain has given no preference to us. My right hon. friend well knows that before the elections of 1896, in various places in this Dominion, he declared for a mutual preference as between Canada and Great Britain. Taking up the cue Sir Charles Tupper had taken years before and labored assiduously upon, namely, that of a mutual preferential arrangement between this country and Great Britain, taking up the cue which had been laid down at the Intercolonial Conference which met here in 1894, where a resolution was passed favoring that project, and the report of which was sympathetically placed before the British Government, and had its due force, my hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in the heat of the election, was anxious to put himself before the electorate as being in favor of a preference which should be mutual between Canada and Great Britain, and he so declared himself upon platform after platform throughout the Dominion. After having made that pledge and promise, to the country, why was my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) led to repudiate that promise when he went over to Great Britain, and why at Liverpool and in London and everywhere, did he go back upon the pledge which he made to the people of this country in favor of a mutual preferential trade? His preferential trade has not been successful in two things. It has not been

successful in diverting the current of trade between Canada and the United States—for which those gentlemen opposite found fault with the late Government. It has not been successful in developing beyond natural causes to an appreciable extent the trade between Great Britain and this country. As far as our export trade is concerned, it has had no appreciable effect. My hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would lead this House and the country to suppose that the door was shut against the exports of Canada to Great Britain until he became the leader of this Government, and then it was suddenly opened. He knows that for the last eight or ten years before he came into office that current of trade had been widening, and deepening and broadening in this country towards Great Britain, and that it was growing in satisfactory and increasing volume every year. And, Sir, if you take away the impetus of heightened prices, and take away the impetus of natural increase of production, which is continually going on in this country, then the increase which has taken place since he came into power, owing to the preferential advantage which he has given Great Britain, I beg leave to say is inappreciable in any degree. More than that, everything which draws attention to a country, which makes knowledge more common between the people of different countries helps in matters of trade if there be the natural basis for trade, and the Jubilee year, with all its accompanying conditions of good-will and of intelligent appreciation by one part of the Empire of every other part of the Empire, had its influence in promoting trade between Great Britain and Canada. But, Sir, the preferential part of it has so far, to say the least, not been brilliantly successful. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says it must be successful, because Sir Howard Vincent, on the very eve of the abrogation of the Belgian and German treaties, and be-

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