

It remains in a very short space to consider

MR. BALFOUR THE FISCAL REFORMER

“Do you desire to alter fundamentally the Fiscal tradition which has prevailed during the last two generations?” is the question Mr. Balfour addressed to himself at Sheffield. “Yes, I do,” was his reply. These be brave words, and from that day to this he has been pestered with the question he persists in regarding as impertinent: “Yes, but how?” Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain begin in perfect agreement. “If you are to have Colonial preference you must put a tax on food,” says Mr. Chamberlain. “Any attempted remedy, so far as I am able to see, would involve the taxation of food in this country,” says Mr. Balfour.

So far both statesmen speak with one voice; they have arrived by different roads at the same theoretical ideal. To convert theory into policy, and policy into fact, is the task before them.

How different is the spirit in which they enter upon this task. Even before the late