

of youth you might have gone for separation. You have no thought of it. You are loyal to the cause. You see the advantage of unity in one powerful state. You possess unrestricted powers of self government. You have power to negotiate treaties. You have the support of the United Empire.

“ And now I am about to tread on difficult ground. I will be scrupulously fair. At our congress in Montreal preference and subsidies to steamships were leading topics. Let us review the progress of events in the interval which has elapsed. Preference has been advocated for many years by Mr. Chamberlain with all the force which belongs to his attractive and commanding personality, and still there is hesitation. The inference is that fiscal change may be viewed under many aspects. In the Old Country it attracts the landowner and those manufacturers and traders who find it hard to meet foreign competition. It has the support of an overwhelming majority in the City of London. The reversal of our fiscal policy alarms the cotton trade, the trades unions and the masses who are consumers of imported food. At the last election opinions were evenly divided in England, favorable to tariff reform in Ireland, against it in Wales and Scotland.

“ Some things may be said concerning the fiscal question which are hardly controversial. If Germany has flourished under protection, Britain has flourished under free trade.