

wished to wait on Mr. Chamberlain. That is what I meant, but perhaps I did not make my point very clear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I quite agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) that the deputations were not necessarily the same, but the only point of my remarks was, not exactly what the board of trade did; not what any particular delegate did, but what Mr. Chamberlain said and did. I cannot understand how the force and effect of what Mr. Chamberlain said and did is in the smallest degree touched by the circumstance as to whether the delegation went by one street or by another. I thank my hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) who interrupted me, because I know he was present, and I think he did quite right in going to Mr. Chamberlain. The point I desire to make in all sincerity is this: that these hon. gentlemen who have persuaded themselves that this getting of a preference in the English market was an easy and simple thing, have been mistaken, and they must know it now from the highest possible testimony. Again and again it was suggested that Mr. Chamberlain in some mysterious way had given them some encouragement, but here is the latest utterance of Mr. Chamberlain quoted by a gentleman who is known to be an enthusiastic advocate of that kind of preferential trade, and Mr. Chamberlain says distinctly that you cannot get that kind of preferential trade unless you will take down your tariff altogether against England. My hon. friend from Toronto would not be willing to do that, and I am frank enough to say that I would not be willing to do it either.

Now, I have said all this concerning the past. We do not deny that if we did get that preference in the English market, it would probably be of some advantage to the Dominion of Canada; but we say that is a question for the Imperial authorities rather than for us. If we could get that preference, we are as willing to assist in availing ourselves of any advantage which might come to Canada through it as any

of the hon. gentlemen opposite. The only difference between us is as to the possibility of getting it and as to the means of getting it. I do not believe, Sir, that it can be obtained to-day. I do not believe, notwithstanding all that one reads in the telegrams from the other side, that we are likely to have a change of front immediately on the part of the Imperial government on the trade question. Yet I would not speak of the future. We live in times of great movements and great changes. I will not say that at no future time in the history of the empire, and the early future possibly, shall this preference be given. Again and again I have stated in this House that that is a question which we must be content to leave to the future. We have believed that the true policy of preferential trade was, not to make demands on the Imperial government which we well knew they could not afford to yield to us. The true policy was to give to Great Britain this preference freely and openly, leaving the Imperial government and parliament to adopt that trade policy which in their judgment was best adapted to the interests of the English people. But, if this preference, which my hon. friends opposite desire to obtain, is ever to come, I beg them to accept my opinion, my assurance, which I give them in all sincerity, that they will never obtain it by the methods they have employed—that they will never obtain it by demands on the home government which are obnoxious to the great mass of the English people. We have much to hope from cultivating the good-will of the English people. I venture to say, as I have said before, that if the time ever comes when we are to receive that preference, we shall not receive it as the result of any huckstering or hargaining between England and the colonies, but as a result of the development of that Imperial sentiment which may override questions of political economy, and in the creation and development of that Imperial sentiment a large and important factor has been the British preferential tariff of the Canadian government.