

my hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) here ?

We cannot believe that the old followers of Sir John Macdonald will, on merely partisan grounds, endeavour to obstruct the adoption of this plan for a closer union with Great Britain. They should rather welcome the conversion of a Government to their ideas.

Well, it was not a conversion, it was my hon. friend's (Mr. Davies, P.E.I.) idea. Besides, it was the idea of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). But that is a pardonable error.

No doubt, it is unpleasant to politicians to see a policy they claimed (very improperly) as theirs, suddenly made effective by their rivals.

Mr. FOSTER. Part of that was parenthetical, was it not ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No, I am honestly reading.

An hon. MEMBER. Read it again.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I will read it again.

No doubt, it is unpleasant to politicians to see a policy that they claimed—

It was my interjection that they claimed it without any reason :

No doubt, it is unpleasant to politicians to see a policy they claimed as theirs, suddenly made effective by rivals. We trust that, when the momentary chagrin is forgotten, there will be no desire to prolong carping criticism or carry out the threat of strongly opposing the new tariff, which is the most striking step as yet made towards commercial union between the mother country and the colonies. Of no little significance is the fact that it is taken by the first French Canadian statesman, the Liberal and Catholic Prime Minister of the Dominion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. May I ask my hon. friend (Sir Richard Cartwright), in order to give the House the benefit of being able to form a judgment as to the statement that he has just read from the London "Times," if he will be kind enough to favour the House with a transcript of the communication to the London "Times," or the London press on which that was based ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I am not aware what communications passed, but I take it for granted that the London "Times" is tolerably well advised. It has two or three correspondents here, and I think it is tolerably well advised.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I beg to say, on behalf of the Government, that no transcript whatever went from the Government to the press.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Gentlemen opposite seem to be very anxious to prevent any light being thrown upon this important question. I did not assume that the Govern-

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

ment had sent any transcript. But, if the information forwarded to the London "Times" by its correspondent here on that question is as inaccurate as on other important questions it is impossible for us to form a judgment on the question without having it before us.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I think I can relieve the hon. gentleman's mind. I think he will find that the opinion of the "Times" is pretty un-animously echoed by the English press.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not confine it to the "Times." I assume that what went to one newspaper went to the others. But, to know the value of any statement of the London press we must know on what it is based.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I assume that it was based on the resolution introduced in this House. I will read the hon. gentleman, if he will allow me, an extract from another London paper, the "Daily News :"

The "Daily News" regards the new tariff as the outcome of American legislation. Mr. Fielding spoke out manfully and accurately upon the relations between this country and the colonies. Too many colonists have hitherto failed to appreciate the fact that, while receiving colonial goods free, we have allowed our colonies to tax our goods. The new policy is advantageous and likely to lead to development in the direction of free trade. The new Canadian tariff is not avowedly and in terms a measure for the benefit of Great Britain, but England will profit more than any other nation. As free traders, we rejoice in this consequence of the Dingley tariff ; as patriots, we welcome this significant display of attachment from the greatest of our colonies, and as Liberals, we congratulate the leader of the Liberal party of the Dominion.

And here, Sir, is from a special article of the "Times :"

If every British colony should follow suit, and the day comes when free trade exists from one frontier of the Empire to another, it will be a mutual satisfaction to recall the circumstances of the first step in the initiation of that policy.

Now, Sir, it is always well to hear from all sides, and I have got an interesting quotation from another "Times." This is from the London correspondent of the New York "Times." I do not think he will be accused of wishing to alter facts to suit us in particular. And he is a man of long experience and great opportunities of forming a conclusion :

For the first time in my experience, England and the English are regarding Canadians and the Dominion with affectionate enthusiasm. When the net benefits to England of the Premier's tariff come to be figured up, I do not know that they will bulk very large ; but the spirit of preference for the mother country directly appeals to the imagination here. Englishmen have always been peculiarly sore on this point of her colonies rearing protection walls against British trade, and nobody can blame them for it. This