

mitted so soon as it may return to office; and the men of conservative minds are being repelled.

A party in power grows old and dies. The party in opposition usually attracts to itself young men of spirit and independence and its virility waxes as the government wanes. But, at the moment, the personnel of the opposition in England is no stronger than it was on the morrow of its defeat seven years ago. There is a large number of educated and able men who find themselves in profound disagreement with the Liberal government, and their natural place is in the Conservative party. Rightly or wrongly, however, they are persuaded that the commercial and social interests of the English people require a certain fiscal policy. They do not hold by the dogma that the mutual loyalty of the people of the empire to each other is inseparably connected with mutual facilities for trade. They do not think that the Dominions should be asked to abandon their policy in the imagined interests of the Empire, and therefore they do not think that the interests of the empire really demand that Englishmen should abandon theirs.

In the Conservative ranks there is now no room for a man, however able, who cannot assent to a radical alteration in the whole fiscal basis under which British industries have been developed for the last eighty years. The consequence is that men who naturally belong to the Conservative party are excluded from its ranks, and, for the most part, are forced out of public life. Indeed, two important persons whose names will readily occur to the mind have been forced, however unwillingly, into the ranks of the opposite side. The effect on the Conservative party is that intellectually it is outmatched by the government. No House of Lords or Senate will ever afford such a valuable check to a party in power as the knowledge that there exist in the ranks of the opposition men no less competent than themselves to assume the reins of government. The government and the electorate in England are not only unwilling to accept the fiscal policy of the opposition, but they do not trust to its ability to conduct the affairs of the