

in some way have induced His Royal Highness to adopt, a different rule from that which has hitherto prevailed, and in view of these precedents I do not think that my hon. friend would deem it improper that he should take the opportunity of telling this House as to whether it was intended to adhere to the British preference. It is important that we should know in order to determine whether we are to give to the West Indies a preference of 20 per cent or one of 33½ per cent. Surely, my hon. friend ought to tell us whether the 33½ per cent is to be only temporary, whether it is proposed to do away with it unless the British Government give us a preference in return, or whether it is intended to continue that policy under which Canada has prospered so greatly during the past fifteen or sixteen years. Does my hon. friend think that it is unreasonable that that information should be given to the House?

Mr. FOSTER: According to my hon. friend's argument just now, I should regard it as improper.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Then the Government of my hon. friend intends to revoke that example which has been set on the two recent occasions to which I have referred?

Mr. FOSTER: My right hon. friend scarcely gets himself out of it in that way. I was watching very carefully the tenor of his remarks. To what purport did he introduce these two examples—that he approved of them or that he disapproved of them? My reading of his argument would be that he entirely disapproved of that sort of thing and yet he has been trying for half an hour to get me to do the very thing that he disapproves in others. Surely my right hon. friend does not want to lead me into temptation in that way!

Mr. PUGSLEY: May I ask my hon. friend why he persists in calling me his right hon. friend? I hope before long to see an addition to the hon. gentleman's title, and nothing would rejoice me more than to see him honoured by being made a K.C.M.G., or something of the kind.

Mr. FOSTER: My hon. friend must give me credit for having as good an opinion of himself as he has of myself.

Mr. PUGSLEY: My hon. friend's foresight may be longer than mine, or perhaps he realizes that the handwriting is upon the wall and that there may be a change of conditions before very long.

Mr. FOSTER: Yes, it has not all been rubbed off yet.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Well, if it gets nearly rubbed off it does not take long to rub the remainder off. I said to my hon. friend that there are these two examples and that I entirely disapprove of them.

Mr. FOSTER: Then do not lead me into the same sort of thing.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But the majority of the members of this House do not take advice from me. The Government has set the example in these two cases. The Government, one would suppose, has determined if this is the proper course to pursue, that information should be given to the House in advance of His Royal Highness submitting a recommendation for the consideration of the House. If my hon. friend agrees with these precedents which have been mentioned—and I assume that he does because otherwise he would rebuke his colleagues for having taken the course that they have taken—surely my hon. friend can advance no reason for not giving us information as to whether the British preference is likely to be maintained or whether it is to be wiped out unless Great Britain gives us taxation upon foodstuffs, which recent events in England show is not likely to take place in the near future, or whether we are to go back to a preference of simply 20 per cent.

Mr. FOSTER: Carried.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will my hon. friend answer my question?

Mr. FOSTER: I am afraid I must be excused.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall this clause be adopted?

Mr. PUGSLEY: Not while I am waiting for an answer from my hon. friend.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried, carried.

Mr. PUGSLEY: My hon. friend is silent—all right.

Mr. MACDONALD: I must say that I am at a loss to understand the attitude of the hon. gentleman whom we must call hereafter the master of the Administration in regard to certain lines of policy. Before dinner he assured me, when I ventured to say a word or two to him asking for some information which I regarded as being of the most important character in order that we might intelligently consider this Bill, that after dinner he would give us this information. Then the minister said to my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) that there was to be no lowering of the British preference. I heard him say so distinctly. My hon. friend gave us the assurance that he would deal with this question and he not only gave us that assurance but he went on to deal with it and declared that the policy of this Gov-