

of securing improved commercial relations with the people of that country.

The hon. member for South Oxford, in the same session, moved the following amendment:—

That it is highly desirable that the largest possible measure of commercial intercourse should obtain between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and that it is expedient that all articles manufactured in, or the natural products of either of the said countries, should be admitted free of duty into the ports of the other.

Hon. members will observe that in 1879 hon. gentlemen opposite were afraid that the action of the Government might disturb harmonious relations between Canada and England by interfering with the trade policy of the Empire, or free trade; and in 1880 they go to the very opposite extreme—they are not afraid of destroying our harmonious relations with the Empire, but they demand unrestricted reciprocity or continental free trade between Canada and the United States, and there is not in the whole resolution a word with respect to England or how the policy might affect her interests. The one goes in favour of England, the other is the very reverse. In 1889, the Liberal party in this House moved another resolution which declared that:

In the present condition of affairs it is expedient that steps should be taken to ascertain on what terms and conditions arrangements can be effected with the United States for the purpose of securing full and unrestricted trade.

We were told by the leaders of the Opposition party then that this meant trade without any restriction whatever. They told us that we were to have no custom-houses along the frontier, and no barriers between the two countries. Their cry was, that there was to be perfect freedom of trade between the United States and Canada. They had no regard or care for the mother country then. In 1890 we had another resolution from the Liberal party in this House which proposed:

To abolish or reduce the taxes now imposed upon the articles of prime necessity to farmers, miners, fishermen, and other producers of the country.

Then in 1891, the Liberals set forth their platform by resolution in this House, as follows:—

The situation of the country requires that the Government should forthwith reduce all duties on articles of prime necessity and more particularly on those most generally consumed by artisans, miners, fishermen and farmers, and further, that the negotiations which the House has been informed are to open in Washington in October next, should be conducted on the basis of the most extended reciprocal freedom of trade between Canada and the United States, in manufactured, as well as natural products.

That resolution of the Liberal party does not say anything about a tariff for revenue

purposes, nor does it say anything about free trade with England, about which the Liberals are now very solicitous. That is a straight declaration for unrestricted reciprocity. The Hon. Mr. Davies, who I see sitting before me, in 1892, moved the following resolution:—

That inasmuch as Great Britain admits the products of Canada into her ports free of duty, this House is of opinion that the present scale of duties exacted on goods mainly imported from Great Britain should be reduced.

The hon. gentleman would throw off the duties entirely upon goods coming in from the United States, but he would only reduce the duties a little on goods coming from England. That policy certainly must have been very consoling to the mother country, and to those loyal members of the Opposition who are now protesting to be so solicitous for the welfare of England, and for the promotion of our financial relations with her. In 1893, the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved:

That the present customs tariff should be at once thoroughly reformed in the direction of free trade, and that the amount of taxes collected be limited to the sum required to meet the necessities of the Government, efficiently and economically administered.

That was out and out free trade. Before that, their policy was commercial union, but it was feared that we might endanger our relationship with the mother country, because we had departed from the free trade lines which she followed in her relations with other countries. In 1894, the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved an amendment on the lines of the resolution of the Ottawa conference, and they were all to this effect:

That the tariff should be reduced, should have eliminated from it the principle of protection, and should be imposed for revenue only; that it should be so adjusted as to make free, or bear as lightly as possible upon, the necessities of life, and to promote freer trade with the whole world, particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

Now we come down to the present amendment moved by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), and let us inquire what it is. It practically declares that a tariff for revenue only with every vestige of protection taken out of it. That is the Liberal policy to-day. Now, let us go back to last winter, when it was thought we were going to have an election, and when hon. gentlemen opposite were travelling around the country, endeavouring to enlighten the people as to what their policy was, and what they were prepared to carry out if they were returned to power. Let us see what their leader told the people then. I have here a speech made by the leader of the Opposition at Toronto, and as it is one of his latest addresses to the electors, I think it may fairly be taken as embody-