

ential clause, they hardly can tell themselves to-day what its scope and bearing is, but it is going to be made preferential with the will of parliament in the present session. Parliament is going to be moved by the gentlemen opposite, the Secretary of State and his colleagues to convert it into a preference in favour of British and colonial over foreign goods. So this medal of the Cobden Club was obtained under false pretenses.

Hon. MEMBERS—Send it back!

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I have no hesitation in saying they would not have presented him with the medal if they had suspected the stand which he is now taking. He took the medal, comes home and his Secretary of State says he is going to give a preference for British goods over foreign products. It being six o'clock I move that the debate be adjourned.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 15th February, 1898.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three O'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

THE DEBATE CONTINUED.

The Order of the Day having been called—

Resuming the further adjourned Debate on the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech on the opening of the Third Session of the Eighth Parliament.

Hon Mr. FERGUSON said:—When the House rose yesterday afternoon I was speaking of the presentation of the Cobden medal to the premier of Canada during his visit to Great Britain last year, and I was pointing out that that medal was presented to the right hon. gentleman with what might be

called a condition attached, which I learned from my hon. friend the Secretary of State in this House the other day, is about to be violated. The condition was that if the Cobden Club, speaking through the mouth of Lord Farrar, believed that the object and intention of the government of Canada in obtaining the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties was to give a preference to Great Britain, they would not have been there. Yet the hon. gentleman accepted the medal. Now, I have to carry that point further and take the position that the right hon. gentleman must have known when he heard that condition expressed that he could not comply with it, because it was at least one month earlier, viz., on the 24th of June that the meeting of the premiers took place in London, and in the opening Mr. Chamberlain explained to that conference (I have the official report in my hand) that it would be necessary for the government of Canada to change what they call the reciprocal offer of last year, because even if the German and Belgian treaties were denounced, the favoured nations clause in the treaties with other countries would still remain and under its operation Canada could not give a preference to any foreign country without granting the same favour to all nations having by treaty a right to most favoured treatment. He (Mr. Chamberlain) pointed out, that in the case of Holland, if a preference was given to her, other countries would have a like privilege, and he explained to the premier of Canada and to that conference that it would be absolutely necessary either to go back on that Canadian reciprocal resolution altogether, or to confine the preference to Great Britain and her colonies. The only opening for the hon. premier to get out of the position in which he is placed with regard to the accepting of that medal under this condition is that he may have, at that moment, intended to go back entirely on the reciprocal resolution and not to give a preference to Great Britain at all. If that was his position when he accepted the medal he maintained his honour that far, but I cannot conceive how he can continue to retain his honour and at the same time retain the medal when his colleague the Secretary of State has announced in this House the intention of the government is to confine that preference to Great Britain.

But I take other grounds to show that the premier is not entitled to wear that Cobden