

evening when Canada was only a blotch upon the map and when he woke up in the morning, behold Canada was a nation, and he was the man who had wrought that miracle. My right hon. friend is scarcely in a position to criticise what he calls egotism, after such an exhibition as that.

WHAT THE PREMIER CLAIMS.

Well, after including in this by play, he proceeds to the serious work of his speech. What was the serious work the hon. gentleman undertook? He undertook to answer the challenge of my hon. friend, as to what he had done for the country. And how long did he take to do it? He took in all, about fifteen minutes. What has my hon. friend, according to his own statement, done for the country?

THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

He says in the first place, that when he came into power he found this country rent and torn over a question which included in it elements of race and creed, with all the dangers that apply to questions of that kind, and that he remedied it—remedied it by relegating it to the province. He told us, in another place, that a political party was a party in which the men composing it believed alike in fundamental matters, and disagreed in others. And so, a cabinet in a government would have to be composed of men who agreed in all points of public policy, or else they could not keep together. Where is the agreement in this case? My hon. friend says that he has settled this question. The Solicitor-General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) declares, and has declared within very recent times, that the question is not settled; and the Solicitor-General and my hon. friend are members of the same Cabinet and Government, which is supposed to have solidarity! The less my hon. friend says about his shifty methods in trying to settle that question, whether it is ultimately settled or not, the better for his reputation in this country. I

do not propose to go into that: I will leave that question for hon. gentlemen who understand it better than I do, and who will take up that point at the proper time.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE FIASCO.

He declares that he has brought about preferential trade—a real preferential trade. Why, when my hon. friend came down to this House with his first resolutions upon the tariff—I have it from the mouth of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who, sits beside him—they had no intention, and it was not the policy of the Government to have preferential trade with Great Britain at all. Preferential trade, if it means anything for a country, is trade which gives to that country advantages which are given to no other country. Preferential trade does not mean most-favored-nation treatment. But what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said—and I have it, I think, in a paper before me—was, that it was not their intention at all to propose a policy of that kind. Here is what he said:

"I say, with respect to that offer we now make, that it is not a preferential offer at all in the true and legal sense of the word. That offer is open to all the world. The Americans may avail themselves of it, so may the Germans and the Belgians. The whole world are welcome to avail themselves of it on the same terms and conditions on which England may take advantage of it."

And he said later:—

"If the Americans were willing to give us full and fair reciprocal advantages, I would recommend trading with them for the benefit of Canada and the Empire, too; and I think Mr. Foster will find out before he is many years older that very probably, although I admit it is a little roundabout way, this is not a bad way to get at it. We have today offered better terms to those countries who will trade with us fairly, but that offer has been made to the United States just as it is to any other country, even to Great Britain, herself."

Now, Sir, that was the intention with which the hon. gentlemen framed

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