

other sentimental considerations should become weakened or dissipated. It was due to motives such as these, it seems to me, that the statesmen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have not only granted Preferential treatment to British goods in the markets of these Dominions, but that they have frequently proffered to the Government of Great Britain larger measures of preference, in return for similar Preferential treatment in British markets for the chief products of the Dominions. But during recent years that common economic bond has not been materially strengthened.

At the Colonial Conference of 1907, Mr. Asquith, the Premier of Great Britain, in reply to the overtures of the self-governing Dominions, expressly declared that preference "means that we are to consider the question whether we shall treat the foreigners and the Colonies as it were differently, and that we conceive we are not able to do." Since 1907, the views expressed by Mr. Asquith have controlled the political actions of the Government of Great Britain, and that Government has apparently been supported by a large majority of the people of Great Britain.

In all matters relating to the export and import trade of Canada,—matters which so vitally affect the material interests of all the Canadian Provinces, and particularly those of the Middle West, we are now, in spite of concessions made by us, and hereafter we may expect to be, treated by Great Britain as all other foreigners are treated, without any special preference or privilege whatsoever. The policy of tariff reform and tariff preference has received but indifferent popular support in Great Britain, and now affords but a very meagre prospect of dominating the political sentiment of that country.

I do not pretend to criticize the so-called free trade policy of the British Government or of the British people—I merely desire to emphasize the fact, to which Mr. Churchill directed special attention, when, at the close of the Imperial Conference of 1907, he boasted at Edinburgh that the British Government had "banged, barred and bolted the door on Imperial Reciprocity;" and then and there declared that "they would not concede one inch, they would not give "one farthing preference on a single pepper-corn."

When all efforts had failed to create a common economic bond between the self-governing Dominions and Great Britain, by means