

want them to believe that we are as anxious to give them as large advantages as any one properly can. But we believe, in their own interests, it would not be wise to advocate an excessive tariff. There may be things which ought to be adjusted and changed. When the Tariff Commission comes around and inquires into these things, we are willing to listen and make changes, and adapt ourselves to the new conditions, just as we did in 1897.

"New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth,
He must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth."

LEADERS IN PREFERENTIAL POLICY.

When it was wise to travel a beaten path, we were content to travel it. When it seemed necessary that we should strike out for ourselves and leave the beaten path, we did not hesitate to do it. Canada has led the way in some of the boldest fiscal reforms in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As an illustration of that—(I find I am occupying too much time. Cries of "No, no. Go on.")—as an instance of that we have the preferential tariff. For many years the desirability of preferential trade between the mother country and her colonies had been talked about in conferences, and in Parliament and in the press. While there was a general feeling that the thing was very desirable, it never got any further. Conferences met and sent resolutions to the mother country, and in a year or two held other meetings with the same result. Why? The demand for preferential trade by the colonies was based upon a condition which at that time was not possible of compliance. It was demanded that as the first step the mother country should place a preferential duty on food products. It would have been a very good thing for Canada, but at that day you might as well have asked the British public for the moon as ask for that. Our view of the matter was that we had better grant a preferential tariff to Great Britain and await results. Our opponents say we should not have done that; that we should have got a return, and there should have been reciprocity. If we had taken that view preferential trade would still be merely a matter to talk about. We decided to grant a preferential tariff at once.

SOME OF ITS EFFECTS.

Sometimes our opponents say it has been of no effect. I venture to say that no movement has had as wide an effect throughout the Empire as that tariff. I believe we got returns at once. Mr. Archie Campbell, M.P., who is with us to-night, made the statement in the House, that he was aware of firms in Canada shipping goods across to the English market and marking them "Ameri-