

cepted the principle that the mutual loyalty of the different communities included in the empire can best be maintained by the establishment of mutual preference in matters of trade. They believed that the maintenance of this loyalty should be the first object of statesmanship, whether in the Dominions or in England; but they accepted, without sufficient examination, the dogma that mutual loyalty is inseparably bound up with mutual trade.

One step in the wrong direction led to another. If mutual advantages in trade were required to maintain mutual loyalty, then the policy of preference must necessarily be adopted. But, in order to establish preferences, England must be brought to abandon a policy which for several generations a large majority of the people had held to be as necessary for their commercial interests as protection was felt by people in the Dominions to be necessary for theirs. In the fancied interests of the empire, the Conservative leaders committed themselves and their party to a policy of protection. They persuaded themselves in ignorant sincerity that, apart from imperial interests, protection would best suit the commercial interests of England; but they also argued that it was essential if the empire was to be held together. No true loyalty to the empire—so the argument ran—was possible to any man who was not willing to adopt the doctrine of protection, even though he might believe that the commercial and social interests of England were best served by free trade.

A party is not a party when it destroys itself. It is merely a skeleton with a residuum of stupid mind. On the march the more far-seeing turn back or turn aside. They are willing to go one mile, but will not go twain. Tammany Hall has disappeared from the politics of New York because the best elements in the organization had long since made new alliances, carrying over their strength to collateral or rival bodies. In England a similar process of disintegration went on within the Conservative party. However radical may be the changes effected, or proposed, by Mr. Lloyd George, they are not nearly so radical as the change to which that party is com-