does my hon. friend that under that polher intro yalty, a great flour-what he was doing it turn out that at have done noth the Mother Counne in. On the for in 1894, 1895 of the United

AGAINST GREAT end the Minister of speaking at Oshawa, re, speaking at Usnaw 1, is thus reported: 1, is th

on, gentleman has not that they did give a the United States of struction of their tariff, the exports from that da to no less than 68 has succeeded in carry nation in favour of the ment that was made . Was that statemediscrimination in the two increased it, tenfo de by the hon. Ministration isheries, (Sir Louis De of the Chamber of Com, has exposed that her fact that his statement e utterly delusive. If discriminated against that the their tark ciff discriminated again said that their tar reform that. Instead riff of bon gentlemen the imports from less than \$37,500,000 dod that they have by

with this sub owing the extraordir of the hon. Minister ducing his budget. subject to another manufacture of heet not be manufacture policy that I entire the question came u

ISH WEST INDIES has taken to heart the gone a long way, in a springing about different to the political countries. I do not avisit pressed this me attention of the hone, that I am glad to have taking a little acceptance of the large of the large taking a little acceptance to the large of the large taking a little acceptance to the large of the large taking a little acceptance taking a little acceptance taking a little acceptance to the large of the large o

ove taking a little advice it might come, and I as adopted the policy of all events, to rescue Trim condition of things, which ated to be fraught with very condition. equences. I should be eaty can be arranged will enable the produc will enable the production on in, in the freest possible being taken in return friend, when he introduce traiff to the West Indifind it perfectly delusive inits that he has falled at he expected. I am glittonal step taken, which ight direction. (Cheers). REFERENTIAL TRADE to the question of prefer nd if I am obliged to detail

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ht with enormous results to too much attention canno.

The hon, gentleman said eatly surprised to hear him statement, that: which after a great struggle t and Cobden, had made food free, was asked to turn nds of the clock and tax the people. England was and again to accept this nd just so long as that denade the great journals and ders of thought in England referential trade of that

atement which is not been cts. I say that the great favour, and on on they have indicated defied anybody to sho ng that had been utter in by the Right Hon. J in favour of that polic w the attention of the Hements, to this subject. of Finance indicates that have reached the hearts. have reached the hearts, hearts, they have reached the people of England w ductions, and have createre for our cheese, our had our eggs. Do these hon, there that when the Modifiesed and when the Libe Government said that it send eggs to England, the a shout of derision by the country because the h a shout of derision by the is country, because the hon-frade and Commerce, being on financial and commercial hat party, held strongly to his that government were flies on that there was nothing that to promote trade in butter thing else. But, he has had different story from the hon inance. Take the question of

ted States was driven out of the English market by Canadian cheese long before the preference was thought of, and that ascenancy attained under the Liberal-Conservative rule has, I am happy to say, continued to the present time. So it is with Canadian hacon. As I went through the streets of hondon, I was glad to see in the large grocery stores, that Canadian cheese and Canadian bacon were rated of far better quality and selling at a higher price than the American products. The hon, gentleman Mr. Fielding), says that we do not ask for any quid pro quo from England, and that we do not want any pound of flesh. Let me tell him that Canadia did not originate this policy of preferential trade. Inter-Imperial preferential trade was adopted in 1891, by the United Empire Trade League, composed of a number of eminent members of the Lords and Commons of both political parties. Their object was not to benefit Canada, but to benefit the Empire. They were Englishmen and their policy was propounded, because having examined all the means to bind the Empire together, they thought this was the best. They arrived at the conclusion that to the feeling of centiment might be added mutually beneficial trade relations, and that both combined, would indessolubly unite the Empire together.

MR. GOSCHEN'S OPINION.

MR. GOSCHEN'S OPINION.

I want to meet the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), that nothing will induce the English people to reverse their policy and to impose any duties upon the food of the people. In 1890 and 1891, I went into that subject very fully, in the Nineteenth Century, and I give elaborate evidence from the best authorities to show what substantial advantage might be given to colonial products in the English markets, without at all raising the price of food. I will give the hon. gentleman a very high authority. The Right Hon. Mr. Goachen, when Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1891, used this language, and he is now in the present Government as First Lord of the Admiralty. He said:

I think it possible that the advantage of the consolidation of the Empire may be so great that, if the increase in the price of the loaf is extremely small, the producers with whom the power now lies far more than with the consumers, may not object. I differ with the hon. member for Leeds, who supposed that if we had any customs union or arrangement by which favour was shown to the coffinies, the United States would have a right to interfere. I do not think the United States would have a right to interfere. I give that to the hon. gentleman from an eminent British statesmain who does not MR. GOSCHEN'S OPINION.

I give that to the hon gentleman from an eminent British statesman, who does not regard that phase as a contingency. I may say that the masses of the people, the consumers, will, in my judgment, be the very agency that will bring about the condition of things in England which we desire to see.

LORD SALISBURY'S STATEMENT. The United Empire Trade League went to Lord Salisbury with the request that he would have the Belgian and German treaties abrogated, because no such arrangement of inter-preferential trade could be carried out unless that were done.

Lord Salisbury said:

On this matter, public opinion must be framed or formed before any Gov-ernment could act. Did Lord Salisbury say, it is quite impossible to undertake or to deal with a subject of this kind. Not at all. Lord Salisbury said further:

said further:

On this matter, public opinion must be framed or formed before any Government can act. No Government can impose its own opinion on the people of this country in these matters. You are invited, and it is the duty of those who feel themselves to be the pioneers of such a movement and the apostles of such a dectrine, to go forth to fight for it, and, when they have convinced the people of this country, their battle will be won.

That is not very discouraging. Lord

That is not very discouraging. Lord Salisbury's advice was taken, and the United Empire Trade League agitated all over Britain in favour of this matter, and after the general elections in 1895, they went back with this statement to Lord, Salisburger

The greater number of the members support of your lordship's policy and administration, advocated either in their election addresses or in their platform speeches, the policy of united Empire trade, and to this fact must be easeribed some portion of the unparalleled majority in the House of Commons by which your lordship is supported—especially from working-class constituencies.

New Sir there is the fact, and yet the

constituencies.

Now, Sir, there is the fact, and yet the hom gentleman (Mr. Fielding), has actually said that no man with a head on his shoulders (or words to that effect), could be found that would advocate any such thing.

The Times newspaper of March 10, 1896, said:

The Prime Minister has addressed a letter to Sir Howard Vincent, as honorary secretary of the United Empire Trade League, in reply to the memorial presented last month by the council of that body, praying that notice might be given denouncing the clause in the commercial treaties with Germany and Belgium preventing British colonies from levying a lighter duty upon British goods than upon foreign goods, should they elect to do so. Lord Salisbury says that "since the accession to office of Her Majesty's present advisers the question of the trade relations between the Mother Country and the colonies has been taken into serious consideration, and that he is in thorough accord with the views expressed by Mr. Chamberlain as to the extreme importance of securing as large a share as possible of the mutual trade of the United Kingdom and the colonies for British producers and manufacturers, whether located in the colonies or in the United Kingdom.

I do not think that bears out the state

I do not think that bears out the statement made by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding). Then on the 25th of April, 1892, the Canadian Parliament passed this reso-

That if and when the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admits Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom upon more favourable terms than it accords to the products of foreign countries, the Parliament of Canada will be prepared to accord corresponding advantages, by a reduction in the duty it imposes upon British manufactured goods.

tion in the duty it indicates about the tist menufactured goods.

That is our policy to-day, that is the position we take. We say it is a question of business; that it is a question of trade. That, is a question which, under our constitution, has been confided to the people of Canada, and, Sir, we respond to the appeal made from high authorities in Great Britain on this question, and, we believe, with them, that it will promote the unity of this great Empire. We believe that we are right, and that it is just and proper we should ask from Her Majesty's Government, that they should adopt the same policy with reference to Canada, that Canada adopts in regard to Great Britain.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE

ada adopts in regard to Great Britain.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE
EMPIRE.

I may say that at the second meeting of
the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, I moved a resolution, proposing that
a 5 per cent. duty should be imposed by
Great Britain in favour of the products of
her colonies, and against foreign products,
and that was defeated by a vote of the
Chambers of the Commerce of the Empire,
47 voting against and 37 voting for. In an
article I contributed to one of the magazines of the day, I showed that if the
delegates from Australia and South Africa
had voted in accordance with the instruction they had received from the Chambers
of Commerce that sent them there, that
resolution would have been carried. In
the Ottawa conference, it was resolved:

That this conference records its belief is Madyiability of a cit toms 32.

that time I think, in power; if not, he was Foreign Minister, and Her Majesty, in her speech at the closing of Parliament, said:

in her speech at the closing of Parliament, said:

A conference was held at Ottawa in the month of June last, at which representatives of the Imperial Government, the Dominion of Canada, the Cape and the Australian colonies met to consider questions relating to intercolonial tariffs and communications.

I have learnt with satisfaction that the proceedings of the conference were of a character calculated to strengthen the union of the colonies concerned, both among themselves and with the Mother Country.

There, Sir, you have from the Prime Minister of England, speaking through the mouth of the Sovereign in closing Parliament, the declaration that that policy which was propounded and adopted by the Ottawa conference, at which Her Majesty's Government, Canada, Australasia and South Africa were represented, was calculated to strengthen the unity of the Empire. Then, the Toronto Board of Trade took this question up in 1896, and passed a resolution of a similar character:

Whereas, while the trade legislation of other nations is framed to subserve their local interests, all British trade and other legislation should aim to secure within the Empire a union of interest of a federal character, and the policy of each British community should be designed to retain within the Empire subjects whose labour would otherwise go to foreign lands;

Resolved, that, in the opinion of this conference, the advantage to be detained by a closer union between the various portions of the British Empire as creat as to justify an arrangement as nearly as possible of the nature of a Zollverein, based upon principles of the freest exchange of commodities within the Empire, consistent with the tariff requirements, incident to the maintenance of the local Government of each kingdom, dominion, province or colony, now forming part of the British family of nations.

Well, Sir, Mr. Chamberlain opened that Chamber of Commerce with a speech of immense significance. He said: Well, Sir. Mr. Chamberlain opened that Chamber of Commerce with a speech of immense significance. He said:

Well. Sir. Mr. Chamberlain opened that Chamber of Commerce with a speech of immense significance. He said:

And I admit that, if I understand it correctly, I find the germs of such a proposal in a resolution which is to be submitted to you on behalf of the Toronto Board of Trade. What is that resolution? I hope I correctly explain it. That resolution I understand to be one for the creation of a British Zollverein or customs union, which would establish at once practically free trade throughout the British Empire, but would leave the contracting parties free to make their own arrangements with regard to duties upon foreign goods; except that—this is an essential condition of the proposal—that Great Britain shall consent to replace moderate duties upon certain articles which are of larce production in the colonies. Now, if I have rightly understood it, these articles would comprise corn, meat, wool and sugar, and perhaps other articles of enormous consumption in this country, which are at present largely produced in the colonies, and which might be, under such an arrangement, wholly produced by British labour. On the other hand, as I have said, the colonies, while maintaining their duties upon foreign imports, would agree to a free interchange of commodities with the rest of the Empire, and would cease to place protective duties upon any product of British labour.

Hon, gentlemen opposite say that there are no protective duties now, but that they have a revenue tariff; and, therefore, that comes entirely within the statement made by Mr. Chamberlain. That congress passed a resolution to this effect:

That this Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire is of opinion that the establishment of closer commercial relations between the United Kingdom and the colonies and dependencies is an object which deserves, and demands, prompt and careful consideration. The congress, therefore, respectfully represents to Her Majesty's Government that, if—the suggestion should be made on behalf of the colonies or some of them,

some practicable plan, by summoning an Imperial conference, thoroughly re-presentative of the interests involved, or by such other means as Her Ma-jesty may be advised to adopt.

Jesty may be advised to adopt.

I was a little surprised to learn that the Finance Minister could so asperse the leader of the Government of which he is a member as to intimate that this question is scoffed at by everybody that it is an utterly idle and impracticable story, and to assert, like other hon gentlemen, that not a word nor a suggestion along that line had been uttered by the Prime Minister.

ENDORSED BY SIR WILFRID. What did the Prime Minister say on the 17th of May, 1896, when seeking the sweet voices of the people? On this question of preferential trade, he said:

In regard to this question of preferential trade, Mr. Laurier desired to say that Sir Charles Tunner was no more favourable to the idea than himself.

My hope is, nay, my conviction is, that on the 23rd of June the Liberal party will be at the head of the polls; and then it will be the Liberal party, with its policy of a revenue tariff, that will send commissioners to London to arrange for a basis of preferential trade. The hon, gentleman went more fully in-to the subject at London, Ont., where he

The hon, gentleman went more fully into the subject at London, Ont., where he said:

Now, the statesmen of Great Britain have thought that the governments of the colonies have come to a time when a new step can be taken in their development? What is that? That there shall be a commercial agreement between England and the colonies. That practical statesman, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has come to the conclusion that the time has come when it is possible to have within the bounds of the Empire a new step taken, which will give to the colonies in England a preference for their products over the products of other nations. What would be the possibilities of such a step if it was taken? We sell our goods in England. We send our wheat, our butter, our cheese, all our natural products, but there we have to compete with similar products from the United States, from Russia, and from other nations. Just see what a great advantage it would be to Canada, if the wheat, cheese and butter, which we would send to England, should be met in England with a preference over similar products of other nations. The possibilities are immense.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the new and progressive Secretary of the Colonies, has declared that the time has come when it is possible to discuss that question. But, Sir, if England is going to give us that preference, England would expect something from us in return. What is it she would expect? England would expect something from us in return. What is it she would expect? England would expect that we would come as closely to her own system of free trade, such as she has it; but I lay it before you, that the thing the English people would expect in return is that, instead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff, pure and simple. These are the conditions on which we can have that boon.

The right hon, gentleman says now that he has got that boon, and I say that he gave the most emphatic pledge that it was

that boon.

The right hon, gentleman says now that he has got that boon, and I say that he gave the most emphatic pledge that it was possible for a man to give to the people of Canada, that if he obtained power his first act would be to send commissioners to England to negotiate for that preferential trade. I am sorry to say that for some cause not yet explained to the people of Canada nor to this House, the wiews on my right hon, friend underwent a radiance.

time in this House a letter of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire on this subject in response to a communication which had been made to him by the Postmaster General. That hon, gentleman sent that communication without referring the matter to me, as I think he was bound in courtiesy to do. Seeing that he was sending what purported to be a speech of mine in order to obtain an opinion upon it. I think he should have taken the trouble to verify that speech before sending it. However, the Duke of Devonshire says in his letter that he never made a formal offer of inter-Imperial trade to my right hon, friend.

Nobody supposed he had any power to do so. As a member of the Government he could discuss the question, but was not in a position to make an offer; but I put it to my right hon, friend whether he did not understand the speech made by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire to be an invitation to the colonial Premiers to make known what they thought on this question of an inter-Imperial commercial arrangement. If that was not his understanding of the speech, why did my right hon, friend reply that he did not want anything of the kind? Will he tell this House that the other Premiers did not consider it an invitation to them to state how far they would be able to go in making proposals to Her Majesty's Government. The evidence is clear that they did, sor does the letter of His Grace in the slightest degree contradict that view. On the contrary, he says:

Very few disciples of free trade fifty years 250 would have believed for a moment that at this time France and Germany would be carrying on an enormous trade under strictly prohibitive conditions and not only that they would not have opened their markets to us, but they would be competing over us for the possession of sa large a portion as possible of the surface of the earth, not for the purpose of opening it up out of the universal benefits of free trade, but for the purpose of excluding from those portions English trade. The world has not become the commercial paradise

Lord Salisbury said that he was at one with Mr. Chamberlain in the views he had announced on that important question and His Grace the Duke of Devonshire accentuated that statement.

SIR WILFRID REFUSES A PREFER-ENCE.

But my right hon. friend, instead of re-deeming the solemn pledge he had given the people of this country, betrayed the people. What did he do? In answer to

that speech he said:

I claim for the present Government
of Canada that they have passed a resolution by which the products of
Great Britain are admitted on the rate
of their tariff at 121 per cent., and
next year at 25 per cent. reduction.
This we have done, not asking any com-

There is a class of our fellow-citizens who ask that all such concessions should be made for quid pro quo.

The Canadian Government has ignor-

The Canadian Government has ignored all such sentiments.

We have done it because we owe a debt of gratitude to Great Britain. We have done it because it is no intention of ours to disturb in any way the system of free trade which has done so much for England.

Many schemes of union had been suggested, but they all had the fatal objection of interfering with the free dom of trade of the colonies.

The colonies had already granted certain concessions to the Mother Country, but they asked for no quid pro quo, no pound of flesh.

What we give you by our tariff we give you in gratitude for the splendid freedom under which we have pros-

What we give you by our tariff we give you in gratitude for the splendid freedom under which we have prospered. It is a free gift. We ask no compensation. Protection has been the curse of Canada; we would not see you come under its baneful influence—for what weakens you must weaken us.

I ask my right hon. friend is that what the people had a right to expect at his hands. When asking their suffrages, he declared that if they would clothe him with power he would send a commission to negotiate inter-Imperial preferential trade between Great Britain and Canada, but having obtained power, he deliberately turned his back on this pledge, and down to this hour there is not a man in this country who has been taken into his confidence and been told what was the cause of this overwhelming change of opinion on his part. It is very significant that he should have gone out of his way to curse that which he was sent to bless.

I may say that Lord Salisbury does not agree with free trade. He was written to by a gentleman in England as long ago as April 5, 1887, and he instructed his private secretary to reply as follows:

I am to reply that Lord Salisbury

I am to reply that Lord Salisbury does not imagine that differential duties in favour of our colonies, whatever may be said for or against them, can properly be described under the term protection.

There is a sweeping away of the whole foundation of my right hon friend's position when on the high road to obtain a Cobden medal. His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, made another pronouncement; and if by his speeches he did not mean to invite the colonies to propose what measures they considered would contribute most to the unity of the Empire, I do not know what he meant. At the Merchant Tallors, Hall, London, on July 8, 1897, he said:

We know that while our colonies and our dependencies can by a strengthened unity greatly enlarge and enhance our power and influence in the world, yet at the same time we have much that we can offer to them, and which we do offer them; and it is not in the interest of the islands alone—it is in the interest of the whole English-speaking race—that we advocate the idea of unity, and we urge upon you to take every measure that it is in your power to take to cement and strengthen it. But, ladies and gentlemen, we believe ourselves, the British race both here and abroad, that we are not only a sentimental people, but a practical people, and the files which must have occurred to many of us, after witnessing the demonstration at home and abroad which we have witnessed in these recent time is, what is to be the practical outcome of it all; what are the measures which we are about to take in order to satisfy the aspirations which many of us have formed; and how are we going to give effect to the sentiment the existence of which, as I have said, is now undoubted? said:

The hon, gentleman was using every means to induce the Premiers whom he was addressing to take this question up.
On the 21st of June, my right hon, friend again said:

Realizing this, and at the same time realizing the great utility which would follow from a closer union between England and her colonies, the Canadian Government have undertaken in some degree to solve the difficulty. They have given to Great Britain a preference in their own markets. My objection to the preference is stated in the resolution for which we voted in 1997. My objection was that it was an in-ducement to England not to give the ve-

every one knows that hundreds of thousands of men would be brought into the Dominion by a policy that would give Canadian products a preference in the English markets over the products of foreign countries, and every man brought into this country is an additional strength to the Empire, as has been recently shown. Therefore, the great objection we had to this preference was that we were throwing away the greatest incentive and the strongest argument that could be used by those who were seeking to have an arrangement made by which the products of the colonies could enter the British market on better terms than the products of foreign countries. It is on that ground that we object to this preference clause. We object to it as throwing away the most effective means by which a preference in the British market could be secured for our goods. This, the right hon, gentleman said:

Now, Sir, this we have done deliberately, and for this let me tell you, gentlemen, the Canadian Government and the Canadian people ask nothing in return. They have done it out of gratitude for the Motherland. They do not ask any quid pro quo; they do not ask for the pound of flesh; the do not require a price for their loyalty.

quire a price for their loyalty.

I am afraid he was not exactly speaking then under the inspiration of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who says that we owe nothing to the Motherland except forgiveness, in a spirit of Christian charity, for the wrong she has done us. I am afraid he was not acting under that aspiration.
The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COM-MERCE. It shows what high Christians

we are. Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Quite so. They have done it out of gratitude for the Motherland. They do not ask any quid pro quo; they do not ask for the pound of flesh; they do not require a price for their loyalty.

quire a price for their loyalty.

The question had, up to that time, been discussed upon the broad principle of mutual benefit to Great Britain, and to Canada, and the outlying-portions of the Empire. But, the right hon, gentleman narrowed it down and gave it an entirely different character; taking the strongest means he could to prevent anybody ever accomplishing anything in favour of this great measure that the whole people of Canada desire, that every man in Canada to-day longs for, and that every intelligent man knows will do more for Canada than any policy that has ever been propounded in Canada, or that can be conceived. AT THE EMPIRE TRADE LEAGUE

DINNER.

DINNER.

And, what does Mr. Chamberlain say in reply? He evidently saw that my right hon. friend was labouring under some hostile spirit, that could not very well be explained. Mr. Chamberlain knew what the position was. I was over in 1896, after the defeat of my Government. I was entertained there, I had the honour of dining with the United Empire Trade League. And, some members of that organization expressed their deep regret that I should have been defeated, because of the support that I was prepared to give to inter-Imperial preferential trade. I said: I am happy to be able to tell you that you are quite mistaken; that, instead of my defeat being an injury to inter-Imperial trade, it will be the reverse; the hon, gentleman who has defeated me, and who is now the Premier of Canada, is pledged as strongly as I am in favour of inter-Imperial preferential trade, and has declared that one of the first things he would do, if he got power, would be to send a commission to England to negotiate it, and I have the most unbounded confidence that he will keep his pledge; and the result will be that you will have the Liberal party of which he is the head, struggling to obtain this great boon, and the Conservative party standing behind them, giving all the aid and sympathy they can. Mr. Chamberlain said, in reply it to the right hon, gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier)—for he spoke later:

My Lord Mayor, if our self-governing gelonies desire new or at any future.

My Lord Mayor, if our self-governing colonies desire now or at any future time to take their share in the glories and in the responsibilities of the Empire they will find that we are ready to meet them more than half-way, and that we will make it our duty to establish firmly that principle of our connection: "Each for all, and all for each," upon which alone the stability and the prosperity of the Empire can depend and—

depend and-Mark this, Mr. Speaker:

Mark this, Mr. Speaker:

—if they are wishful to draw closer the commercial relations between themselves and us, now or at any future time, again I say we will meet them, and in no huckestering spirit. We will not treat this as a transaction in a ledger, to be weighed in proportion to the exact balance of profit and loss. No, there is a principle, and, as I have said, a sentiment behind it which will carry all before it, because we see in such tightening of Imperial bonds a guarantee for security and continued unity.

I say that the man who, in the face o

I say, that the man who, in the face of that will say that there is no public man in England who will listen to the discussion of this question, that it is scorned by the press and the people in that country, utterly fails to grasp this subject, utterly fails to see it in its true light.

SIR WILFRID'S EXCUSE.

Bit Will-FRID'S EXCUSE.

But, my right hon, friend came back, and, I wish to remind him of a point which, it seems, has escaped his notice. He was attacked for having betrayed the interests of Canada, for having failed to redeem the pledge he gave to the people. He went to Toronto and gave his answer. And, what was it? I will give his exact words, as taken in his speech in Toronto, after his return in 1897:

Certainly, if I thought I could have

obtained for my country, for the products of Canada, a preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain, I would not only have been wanting in patriotism, but I would have been wanting in reason—I would simply have been an idiot—if I had failed to obtain such a preference. But let me say that above all things, in matters political, I have learned my lesson from British precedents, and I know that all reforms have to be taken one step at a time, and he who endeavours to do more than that is likely to end in failure.

Then he went on to say that the treaties had been denounced, and that they were the great hindrance in the way, and proceeded:

There is nothing in the way now.
The coast is clear. The ground is ready
for discussion, and if can be discussed
with a hope of obtaining some satisfactory solution of the problem.

with a hope of obtaining some satisfactory solution of the problem.

There is another pledge, a pledge made since he came back—that the great difficulty out of the way, he would do everything in his power to obtain this great boen for Canada. What step has he taken, down to this hour? He has done nothing but block every effort made in this House to take a single step in that direction. Though he declared that the great difficulty had been removed, and he was ready to do everything, he has done less than nothing.

The Minister of Finance, says that Mr. Chamberlain has never committed himself on this question. I want to know how he accounts for the declaration of the leader of his own Government, that Mr. Chamberlain had committed himself in the fullest degree, and had proposed a policy that was perfectly practicable, and that under a policy of revenue tariff—which the hon. gentleman says he has now—it could be carried out without difficulty. Does he say that the leader of the Government does not know anything about this subject? Does he cast ridicule upon that gentleman, and as he is incapable of reading the English language and of learning the sentiments of a public man from his express declaration on manifold occasions? The hon entleman's (Mr. Fielding's), statements he a serious reflection upon his leader. As hon, gentleman knows, the Right Hon.

views still. We know that the Premiers of Australia had agreed, that they had passed a resolution asking for a commission on this subject. And who stopped it, who blocked it, who prevented anything being done? The onus rests on the right hon gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Vaurier), who had given his pledge that he would do everything in his power to support this policy.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFER.

Specing to the Premiers the Right

Speaking to the Premiers, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain said:

Speaking to the Premiers, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain said:

In the meanwhile, however, I may say that I note a resolution which appears to have been passed unanimously at a meeting of the Premiers in Hobart, an which the desire was expressed for closer commercial arrangements with the Empire, and I think it was suggested that a commission of inquiry should be created in order to see in what way practical effect might be given to the aspiration. If that be the case, and if it were thought at the present time you were not prepared to go beyond that inquiry, if it were the wish of the other colonies, of Canada and of the South African colonies, to join in such an inquiry, Her Majesty's Government would be delighted to make arrangements for that purpose, and to accept any suggestions as to the form of the reference and the character and constitution of the commission, and would very gladly take part in it.

and would very gladly take part in it.

Does the hon, gentleman dare to tell me, or any hon, gentleman in this House, or out of it, that the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, who had followed step by step hine by line, the declarations that had been made in regard to this subject, by the Premiers, and ended in proposing to these gentlemen that he would form part of a commission to take this subject up and inquire into it—does he mean to sav, that that indicates there is no man in England that we can quote a line from, or any public journal of influence to show that there is any utility in doing anything in regard to this matter? Now. Sir. Colonel Howard Vincent was interviewed on this subject. February 12, 1897, and this is what he said:

In view of Mr. G. E. Foster's and

In view of Mr. G. E. Foster's and Sir Charles Tuppea's speeches, and the action of the Canadian Parliament, a correspondent asked Golonel Howard Vincent, M.P., to-day what action was intended in the Imperial Parliament respecting a tariff of preferences with the Empire. He replied: "I cannot say definitely, but we shall march forward day by day, and stage by stage, in accordance with Sir Charles Tupper's views and those of the Canadian Government."

Col. Vincent continues: The United Empire Trade League now numbers guite-two-thirds of the Ministerialists in the British Commons.

now numbers quite two-thirds of the Ministerialists in the British Commons. And yet, the hon gentleman tells this House that no man can be found in England that will lend any countenance or any sanction to these proposals. I have been obliged to detain the House at length on this question because I consider it of vital importance, and I am anxious to place before the country, clearly and distinctly, the great issue that is between the parties. Hon gentlemen opposite propose to give a preference which we on this side of the House think is calculated to prevent anything ever being done that will induce the British Government and the British Parliament to negotiate on this question, because all these questions have to be negotiated on the principle of reciprocity. We take our stand on the principle of protection. We say we are prepared to protect the great industries of this country, and we coup'e with that the proposition that no protection, no boon, as the right hon, gentleman has justly said, and repeated again and again before the elections, can be given to the great agricultural interests of Canada that will compare for a moment with the advantage it would derive in securing the imposition of a duty upon the products of foreign countries going into the British market that will give an advantage to Canada.

THE OPINION OF THE TIMES.

THE OPINION OF THE TIMES. Now, Sir, the hon, gentleman says that every London journal scoffs at the idea of preferential trade. Why do they scoff at it? They did not scoff at it before the preference was thrown at them, and before they were told that we wanted nothing for it. Here is what the Times says on February 13, 1896:

It is believed that the accession of It is believed that the accession of Sir Charles Tupper to the ministry will lead Canada to make some kind of an effort of preferential trade with the Mother Country. It is probable that the united Governments of Australia will make a similar effort. The recent turn of foreign affairs, especially regarding Germany and America, have given much popular impetus to this movement.

much popular impetus to this movement.

And yet, every London journal, according to the hon, gentleman, scoffs at the idea of obtaining inter-Imperial preferential trade. Now, let me refer to the boards of trade. I suppose there are some men in the board of trade of Montreal, Torentognand Ottawa, who have heads on their shoulders, some men who have a little knowledge of commercial affairs as well, as the Minister of Finance. Now, Sir, this proposition that the hon, gentleman scoffs at, derides, and says is out of the question, that it is a waste of time to discuss it, is not so regarded by the boards of trade of Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, who have, within the last month, passed resolutions strongly affirming the desirability of sending delegates to a congress of the Chamber of Commerce, to press this very policy upon the associated exambers of commerce of the Empire.

THE CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT.

THE CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT. Sir, I do not propose to take up further time than to move the resolution which I hold in my hand, and which is seconded by Mr. Foster:

Sir, I do not proposed to take up further time than to move the recolution which I hold in my hand, and which is esconded by Mr. Foster:

That all the words after "That" be left out and the following added instead thereof: "this House is of opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and presented and the colonies would grown stimulate increased these countries, and would thus premote and maintain the unity of the Empire; and that no measure of preference which falls short of the complete realisation of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory."

That is the policy that we propound to the complete realisation of such a spolicy should be considered as final or satisfactory.

That is the policy that we propound to a significant to the policy proposed by the hon, gentleman of increasing to 33 1.3 per cent. the preference given the left as little stringency come and the hon, gentleman will find industry after interest of the country. I say that the left as little stringency come and the hon, gentleman will find industry after industry going down in Canada. They will find that without having accomplished anything beneficial to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country to Great Britain, without having increased by one pound or by one dollar the exports sent from this country

Does the hon, gentleman think that is due to this Government?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Let me remind the House of what the Prime Minister of Canada said in Sherbrooke. He apologized for having done anything. He said he had not consented to anything not even to allowing men to enlist in the British army from Canada, he had not consented to anything until he was borne down by the overwhelming sentiment of the country. Let me call a witness from that side of the House. The hon, the junior member for the city of Halifax (Mr. Russell) has borne this testimony:

It was the opportunity and the privilege of the leader of the Opposition to initiate the proposal to offer Canadian troops for service in South Africa. It was a proud, and enviable, and distinguished opportunity.

Then, what do we find the hon, member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), saying on this subject:

After Parliament was prorogued, event went on until it came to the

for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) saying on this subject:

After Parliament was prorogued, events went on, until it came to the point where the Prime Minister declared that Canada was not at war with the South African Republic; that our Militia Act forbade the sending of our troops outside of Canada unless her territory was threatened; and, moreover, that Parliament was sovereign in the matter, and that, without the sanction of Parliament, the Government could do nothing. I think this is a fair resume of the position taken by the right hon, gentleman in his often-quoted interview with the "Globe." The leader of the Opposition took issue with the Prime Minister. In a telegram which did not reach its destination, but which was published broadcast—

And known well to the hon, gentleman.

And known well to the hon. gentleman.

And known well to the hon, gentleman.

—the hon, gentleman advised the Government to send troops right at once and not to mind Parliament. I need not say where my sympathy stood. Ten days later the Government gave up, and decided to send troops.

I commend that to the attention of hon, gentlemen opposite. What more have we, Sir? At this moment we have—the fact that supporters of the Government are now agitating the question and are holding public meetings in the province of Quebec. The hon, member for Laprairie and Napierville (Mr. Monet), the hon, member for Charlevoix (Mr. Angers), are holding public meetings in the province of Quebec denouncing the sending of troops, apologizing for the Premier, and saying that he was misled by that dreadful man, Sir Charles Tupper.

BOARD OF TRADE RESOLUTIONS.

Sir Charles Tupper.

BOARD OF TRADE RESOLUTIONS.

This may be a farce that is being carried out, but, I think, if it is one, it is not particularly creditable to the hon. gentleman. I will ask the permission of the House to have these resolutions of the boards of trade entered on the record, as I have really no time to read them:

Ottawa Board of Trade:

Whereas, the second congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire declared, in 1892, "That arrangements should be devised to secure closer commercial union between the Mother Country and her colonies and dependencies," and, "That a commercial union within the British Empire on the basis of freer trade would tend to promote its permanence and prosperity;"

And, whereas, it has been generally admitted that the colonies should contribute towards the cost of Imperial defence, and, as a matter of fact, colonial forces have participated with those of the United Kingdom, in defending the integrity of the Empire;

Therefore, be it resolved, that, in the opinion of this congress, a certain degree of closer commercial union among the countries of the Empire can be most conveniently established a step towards the introduction of inter-British free trade most readily taken, and the responsibilities of each part of the Empire most equitably borne by providing a revenue for its defence, and other common Imperial purposes, from the proceeds of a small uniform duty tover and above those of the local tariffs, where any such are levied) on all importations from foreign countries, intofevery part of the Empire.

That in the opinion of this congress the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened and the union of the various parts of Her Majesty's dominions greatly consolidated—

(a). By the colonies contributing towards the naval and military defence

union of the various parts of Her Majesty's dominions greatly consolidated—
(a). By the colonies contributing towards the naval and military defence of the Empire;
(b.) By the adoption of a commercial arrangement that, while conserving the present freedom of action as to (b.) By the adoption of a commercial arrangement that, while conserving the present freedom of action as to the fiscal policies most suitable to the geographical conditions and diversified interests of the individual countries composing the Empire, will provide for the imposition of a moderate special advalorem duty on importations from foreign countries to be levied uniformly by all parts of the British Empire, thus not only providing revenue for joint Imperial responsibilities, but also inaugurating a policy of mutual benefit whereby each component part of the Empire would receive an advantage in trade as a result of its national relationship.

Toronto Board of Trade:

Toronto Board of Trade:

Toronto Board of Trade:

Whereas, it is generally recognized that an advantageous commercial bond is the strongest link in national unity, and maintenance and strengthening of trade is the keystone of a state's successful development;

And whereas, the existence of an Empire is largely dependent upon the material prosperity of its people:
Therefore, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this congress, the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened and the union of the various parts of Her Majesty's dominions greatly consolidated by the adoption of as commercial policy based upon the principle of mutual benefit, whereby each component part of the Empire would receive a substantial advantage in trade as the result of their national relationship.