

The hon. gentleman said that his policy was a revenue tariff policy, and that he was in a position to obtain that. Now, Sir, I think we have disposed of that question for the moment. We have shown that the right hon. gentleman has utterly failed to realize the just expectations of the people and the Parliament of Canada, but that, on the other hand, he has done all that man could do to strike down a policy that every person knows is of vital importance to this country. When it is remembered that the United Kingdom consumes a hundred millions of bread and meat more than she can raise and that, under that policy, we could furnish the whole of it from Canada, "just imagine," to use the eloquent and graphic illustration of the right hon. gentleman, just imagine the possibilities of such a condition of things.

Now, Sir, I come to that clause in this Speech in reference to the Jubilee, in which we are asked to congratulate ourselves

—upon the warm appreciation manifested everywhere throughout the mother country in reference to the conduct of Canada in materially reducing the rate of duty upon goods imported from the United Kingdom into the Dominion.

They did not do it, Sir. Not only did they not do it, but there never was a more complete delusion imposed upon any country than that imposed upon the people and press in England in reference to this pretended policy of preferential trade brought forward at the last session of this Parliament. We drew attention to that at the time. There is no doubt that it served a purpose; there is no doubt that almost the whole of the London press and of the provincial press through England caught at the prospect and became wildly enthusiastic in favour of that policy. And why? Why, Sir, as a rule, it was understood that the resolution proposed by the Parliament of Canada was one to prevent any country that did not do as England did, accept the goods of Canada without any duty at all, from enjoying the same advantage. A gentleman wrote a long article in one of the quarterlies, and the whole basis of his argument was that the policy of Canada had been laid down emphatically, that no other country than England could enjoy this advantage, because no country could enjoy it unless she received the goods of Canada upon the same terms that England did. The whole thing was a complete delusion, but it was considered to be a most wonderful advantage to England. Merchants and manufacturers in the United Kingdom, all those who are anxious to sell their goods, were led to believe that Canada was offering a mighty boon to the people of England, without money and without price, that a great reduction was being made in the duties, which would be the means of building up and increasing trade between that country and the Dominion. All this was based on a complete delusion, which was thoroughly exposed in this House last session. But I must say

this to hon. gentlemen opposite: all this furore, all this excitement, all the interest created on this subject in the United Kingdom was due to us and not to you. Where would you have been with your preferential tariff if we had not fought you to the death at the polls in 1891, and prevented you carrying out a policy of adopting the tariff of the United States as against England? If you had not been defeated and driven back, if the country had not been rescued and saved from the treasonable attempt to undermine the British institutions of this country as well as her commercial policy, you would not have had it in your power to take off one-eighth of the duty on goods coming in from the United Kingdom. Did I use too strong a term in designating it a treasonable policy to British institutions? What did we hear the other day? Hon. Edward Blake—why he did it I cannot quite understand—travelled through this country, reminding the people that when an attempt was made by the Liberal party to break down what he regarded as British institutions and adopt an American policy in this country, he had abandoned his party and had left their ranks. The Liberals having been defeated at the polls by the Conservative party, the country had been rescued, and the Liberal party had been able to adopt a policy which would enable him to sleep with them once more. I think the right hon. the First Minister will admit that one of the ablest of the premiers who attended the International Conference was the Right Hon. Mr. Reid, Premier of New South Wales. What did Mr. Reid say? Let me read as neat a bit of sarcasm—it consists of only three sentences—as I ever heard. Speaking at a meeting of the Chambers of Commerce, he said:

Might he make a startling announcement? His friend, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had announced by the Canadian people a reduction of the somewhat heavy duties as a recognition of the principle that bound them together. He honoured him and the Canadian people for that step. If he had come to tell them that one of the most flourishing parts of the Empire—New South Wales—was about to open her ports to British commerce with a tariff fairer than her own, they would hail the announcement with great pleasure. Unfortunately it occurred two years ago. (Cheers and laughter.) If it had only occurred in this memorable year of the Jubilee, he had no doubt that the Premier of New South Wales would have been the fiscal lion of the hour. (Laughter.) But he had the misfortune to achieve his free trade victory in the mother country of Australasia two years ago. (Cheers.)

Canada was about to take off a percentage of the duties on English goods imported into the Dominion, and there was wild excitement, every merchant, manufacturer and artisan thinking he was forthwith to be made rich. Members of this House know the result. The New South Wales Government had removed, not one-eighth, but the whole of the duties from goods coming into that colony from England, and yet