

wealthy members of the profession will appreciate, when we put all surgical and dental instruments on the free list. We recognize the great mining industry of the country by placing on the free list all machinery exclusively used in mining enterprises. We do not confine it to mining machinery made in Canada, but we say it is more important to develop the mining interests of Canada than even to make a few machines in Canada, and so we put mining machinery exclusively used for the purposes of mining enterprises on the free list. We give the people the benefit of reduction on breadstuffs, flour, wheat and cornmeal. We give the manufacturers the benefit of cheaper iron, and much complaint has been made by them in the past of the burdens imposed upon them by the iron duty. We revise the duties on rice in such a manner that they will not add a cent to the cost to the consumer, yet they will add materially to the public revenue. We give the people a reduction almost all along the line. We provide the necessary revenue to meet the great needs of the country by increased taxes on articles of luxury, such as spirits, tobacco and cigars, and without any increased taxation on the necessaries of life. If hon. gentlemen opposite have ever had the free breakfast table they talk about, we make it freer to-day by reducing the duty on the sugar that goes on the breakfast table from \$1.14 per 100 pounds to \$1, which is a material reduction. And last, but not least, we give to the people the benefits of preferential trade with the mother country. This question of preferential trade has been mentioned in the House in times past. Leading public men have advocated preferential trade, but always annexing to their suggestions a demand with which it was well known England could not comply. All the advocates of preferential trade, at all events all who have taken an active part in that movement, have assumed that, as the first step, England must consent to put a duty on corn. We know that England does not view that project with favour. We know that no more unpopular project can be offered the English people than to ask them to put a duty on breadstuffs. It may be, as time rolls on, and at an early day, they may change their views. It may be that they may see it in their interest to make this distinction, and they may offer some preferential rate to the grain of Canada. If they can be induced to do that by fair argument, I have no doubt it will be a good thing for Canada. But why should we wait for England to take action? England has dealt generously with us in the past. England has given us a larger degree of liberty perhaps than is possessed by any other country on the face of the earth. She has given us liberty to tax her wares even when she admits our goods free, and we have taxed them to an enormous degree. Why should

Mr. FIELDING.

we wait for England to do more? Somebody must make a move in this matter, and we propose that Canada shall lead the way. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition says that our project of freer trade with England is a delusive one.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Is it delusive. When I place these resolutions on the Table of this House to-night, they go into effect, and I speak with pride, in the name of the Liberal party, and the hon. gentlemen around me will share that pride, when I say that to-morrow morning, at every custom-house in Canada from ocean to ocean, the doors will open on terms of preferential trade with the mother country. I cannot doubt that this tariff will commend itself to this House and country, and when this policy shall have passed its various stages, when it shall have passed into law, then the members of the Parliament of Canada may feel that, in this glorious year of jubilee, they have made a noble contribution to that splendid parliamentary record which Tennyson had in his mind when he pictured the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria:

And statesmen at her council met,
Who knew the seasons when to take
Occasion by the hand; and make
The bounds of freedom wider yet.

The following are the resolutions:—

1. Resolved, That it is expedient to revise and consolidate the Acts and parts of Acts now in force respecting the duties of customs, and that for this purpose it is expedient to repeal the following Acts or parts thereof not heretofore repealed, viz. :—

57-58 Victoria, Chapter 33, intituled: "An Act to consolidate and amend the Acts respecting the Duties of Customs."

58-59 Victoria, Chapter 23, intituled: "An Act to amend the Customs Tariff, 1894."

59 Victoria, Chapter 8, intituled: "An Act further to amend the Customs Tariff, 1894."

And to provide otherwise by enacting that the following be substituted in lieu thereof:—

1. That unless the context otherwise requires,
(a) The initials "n.e.s." represent and have the meaning of the words "not elsewhere specified";

(b) The initials "n.o.p." represent and have the meaning of the words "not otherwise provided for";

(c) The expression "gallon" means an imperial gallon;

(d) The expression "ton" means two thousand pounds avoirdupois;

(e) The expression "proof" or "proof spirits," when applied to wines or spirits of any kind, means spirits of a strength equal to that of pure ethyl alcohol compounded with distilled water in such proportions that the resultant mixture shall at a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit have a specific gravity of 0.9198 as compared with that of distilled water at the same temperature;

(f) The expression "gauge," when applied to metal sheets or plates or to wire, means the thickness as determined by Stubbs's standard gauge.