

at least has somewhat been lost sight of, I propose to say a few words to you as to the exact effect of our preferential tariff. Gentlemen, in my judgment that is a much more far-reaching measure than either its friends or opponents assert. I think I shall be able to show that its effects on the Canadian consumer—who is a party that the Conservative politicians seem disposed entirely to ignore—has been in the highest degree beneficial, and what is perhaps even of more importance, that the effect of our preferential tariff on the Canadian producer and on the Canadian manufacturer has been in the highest degree satisfactory. Now, sir, let me point out a little inconsistency on the part of our friends of the opposition. They are very fond of denouncing us as inconsistent, but what is their attitude as regards preferential trade? Why, sir, again and again and again I have heard every one of them on the floor of parliament, denouncing our preferences to Great Britain in one sentence as a shame and a delusion, an utter snare, a thing that has no value to England, and yet, sir, the words are hardly cold on their lips before they are denouncing us for not obtaining in consideration of granting that sham, delusion and snare an immense concession from England and a reversal of her entire fiscal policy.

If preferential trade granted by us to Great Britain is as they say, a sham, a delusion and a snare, how dare they make a complaint against us that we have not been able to obtain a greater preference from England? But if, on the other hand, it is a substantial benefit, as I believe it is, not merely to the English merchant and manufacturer, but to the Canadian consumer, and to the Canadian producer, then I say let them hold their peace or let them, if they dare, propose to abolish it and return to the former system. As to its being ruinous to Canadian manufacturers, I leave Canadian manufacturers from one end of the Dominion to the other to state what they have found. Sir, unless I am much mistaken, there is hardly a Canadian manufacturer who will not rise up and say, if he speaks the truth, that at this present moment Canadian manufacturers are enjoying greater prosperity than they have done at any period since confederation became a fact.

### Why 'They Hate It.

Sir, I can understand why these men hate preferential trade. I can understand why they hate this preference. I can understand why they hate and detest to see Liberals above all others adopt preferential trade with Great Britain. Sir, it was the best possible contrast to their own lip loyalty, to their own hypocritical pretence of superior devotion to the British Empire. (Cheers) What they talked about Liberals did, and, that is the sting of the whole business, so far as they were concerned. (Hear, hear.) Now, let us understand what it has done for the people of Canada. In the first place, I say that it has greatly reduced taxation. Every man can see for himself that when you place on the statute book a measure under which the British manufacturer is allowed to bring his goods into Canada, paying only \$2, whereas every other nationality is