as will be found in Hansard, page 5852, Mr. Bain said in the House of Commons:

When we do the best we can and put our natural products on the English market in the best possible condition, when we offer the best quality of cheese, the finest grade of butter, the finest wheat the world produces, and put them on her market in the best condition then we have a guarantee that the English dollars will come to our pockets, and come in a legitimate precess.

That is the whole thing in a nut shell, and I hope this eminent agricultural authority will be headed and will have the eff destroying some of those fallacies.
MINISTER OF TRADE AND COM-The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COM-MERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I hope my hon friend will listen to other advice he got from that quarter equally pertinent.

believe that your efforts are founded on the opposite principle, and will be fol-lowed by opposite results, that we, fol-lowers of Adam Smith and of Peel, of Bright and of Cobden, are here to con-gratulate and to thank you. You do not ask us to abate one jot of our free trade principles.

free trade principles.

There is a declaration of Lord Farrer in the clearest and most comprehensive terms that if he had had that tariff of 1898 bethe elearest and most comprehensive terms
that if he had had that tariff of 1893 he
fore him, my right hon, friend would not
have received that great distinguishing
badge which I told him on a former occasion I was afraid he would find a mill
stone around his neck, and I am still of
that opinion. Let me now recall what I
stated to my hon, friend the Minister of
Finance in reply to his statements as to
my attitude on the tariff, and I give it as
an evidence of the position that we took
on this side of the House:

The first is that this proposed tariff,
exposing the industries of Canada to
competition with all the world, and the
reduction of 25 per cent, below the
general tariff which is adopted, will be
fatal to Canadian industries.

I believed that then, and I believe it now.

I believed that then, and I believe it now. That may not be felt

Fortunately we have been rescued from that, fortunately the abandonment of the free trade policy that Lord Farrer spoke of, and the adoption of the exclusive preference to England, has saved us from that danger we were exposed to under the tariff of 1897, which was open to all the world, as Lord Farrer said.

That may not be felt perhaps imme-

arist of 1897, which was open to all the world, as Lord Farrer said.

That may not be felt perhaps immediately, but at a very early day it will be felt; and, the gentlemen on the back benches have enlightened us by telling as that after personal communication, with the Government, they have obtained a pledge that this is only the centering of the wedge, and that it will be driven home until every vesture of protection is rooted out. My second and great objection is that this policy has destroyed the prospect of obtaining preferential trade, the most gigantic boon which, in my judgment, could be obtained for Canada, and one which if the hon, gentleman was determined to make his attack on the industries of the country they ought to dustries of the country, they ought to have secured, if for no other reason than as some compensation for the injury they were doing.

Ind I moved this resolution:

ind I moved this resolution:

That in the opinion of this House the reduction by 25 per cent. of the duties upon all imports except wines, malt liquors, spirita, spirituous liquors, liquid medicines and articles containing alcohol; sugar, molasses and syrups of all kinds, the product of the sugar came, or beet root, tobaceo, cigars and cigarettes in favour of any country whose tariff is or may be made on the whole as low as that of schedule D, is calculated to imperil the industrial interests of Canada, and is in principle opposed to preferential trade of any kind with the Mother Country.

That on several occasions the Government and Parliament of Canada have requested. Her Majesty to be pleased to take such steps as might be necessary to terminate the effect of the provisions of all treaties which prevent the Parliaments of the United Kingdom and the self-governing colonies adopting such tariffs as may be required for the promotion of trade with the Empire, but no decisive actions has been taken in this direction.

That the desire for preferential trade with the United Kingdom is now general throughout Canada.

That this House is of opinion that the Government of Canada should cause ther Majesty's Government to be advised that so soon as the difficulties in the way are removed the Parliament of Canada is ready to enter into a pre-

the way are removed the Parliament of Canada is ready to enter into a pre-

ferential trade arrangement with Great Britain and Ireland.

That this House cannot consent that any arrangement made by the Gov-ernment of Canada with any country involving serious considerations of tar-iff and revenue should become opera-tive without the sanction and ratifica-tion of Parliament.

iff and revenue should become operative without the sanction and ratification of Parliament.

Now, there is a policy, there is a statement, there is a professor and ratification of Parliament.

Now, there is a policy, there is a statement, there is a professor and ratification of the least which was introduced in 1893, and we were all glad to get rid of the exposure of our industries to the competition of the whole world under a preferential rate, and we were samaious to have it limited, if it must be given to anybody, to the Mother Country. Now, let us see what the Minister of Finance said in his budget speech in regard to the United States:

If, in the United States there had been manifested any great desire to have better trade relations with us, I am sure there would be a very strong demand from many people in Canada for reductions in the tariff on American products. But our American neighbours feel it to be their duty, and they feel it to be consistent with their best interests, not to encourage closer trade relations with Canada. And while they take that position, we do not think the moment is favourable for making reductions upon articles which are produced in the United States. The Joint High Commission, though it has not accomplished much, has not yet come to the end of its term. It is theoretically, at all events, still an open question, and though there may be no immediate prospects of its re-assembling it has not yet been dismissed by the noly authorities who can terminate its restence. If we shall have an opportunity of opening up trade relations with the United States, I am sure this flovernment will not fail to take advantage of it.

NOTHING TO INCREASE BRITISH

States. Now, how does my hon, friend account for the fact that under that policy, under that tariff which he introduced with a grand burst of loyalty, a great flourish of trumpets as to what he was doing for England, how does it turn out that at the end of three years you have done nothing to increase that trade? Your imports have been the same from the Mother Country during the three years that you have been in power as during the previous three years before you came in. On the other hand, we find that for in 1894, 1895 and 1896 there was an average importation other hand, we find that for in 1894, 1895 and 1896 there was an average importation of \$37,000,000 a year from the United States or 68 per cent. in favour of the United States. I say that if the English people can be made to feel grateful for the creation of a tariff that beought about that result, I do not think they would exhibit that amount of intelligence that I should hope to find in that country.

my hon friend will listen to other advice he got from that quarter equally pertinent.

A FREE TRADE POLICY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER: I always do, with great respect. I now come to the point I raised before. I have shown what the resolution, what the policy, of 1837, was, the policy I denounced. It was a free trade policy, it was a policy of giving to all the world, and not giving anything to England. At that time England was almost the only country that could take advantage of it. But I say it was a policy open to all the world; and the hon. gentleman the Minister of Trade and Commerce followed it up by stating that they intended to drive that wedge home and steadily to increase the preference until they had reached that happy hunting ground of free trade. Now I will read what Lord Farrer, said, when delivering that medal to the 19th hon gentleman:

There is a party amongst us who would willingly discriminate against German and Belgian goods, and wholeok upon the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties as a step towards what they have been pleased to call the commercial federation of the Empire—a system under which commercial in the interval of the Empire will be fostered by laws excelled in the different parts of 1 has been pleased to dwards what they have been pleased to what you have done, I need hardly say that we of the Cobden Club would not have been here. It is because we believe that your efforts are founded on the opposite principle, and will be followed by opposite results, that we, followed by oppos Great Britain by admitting American manufacturers free and; taxing; the manufacturers of Great Britain?"

Sir Richard Cartwright replied: "Certainly we do."

Although the hon, gentleman has not boldly proclaimed that they did give a large preference to the United States of America in the construction of their tariff, which has raised the exports from that country into Canada to no less than 68 per cent., while, they have been lessened from England, he has succeeded in carrying out a discrimination in favour of the United States, if there is any truth to be found in the statement that was made in the platform of the Liberal party in 1893, when they declared, in express terms, that the tariff of Canada discriminated against England. I ask if there is an hon, gentlemen on that side of the House who, will repeat that to day. Was that statement true? Was there discrimination in the tariff? If so, you have increased it, tenfold. The statement-mide by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries 'Eir Louis Davies), to a section of the Chamber of Commerce in England, has exposed that hon gentleman to the fatt that his statements have proved to be utterly delusive. He said that our tariff discriminated against England, and he said that their tariff would change and reform that. Instead of doing that the tariff of hon, gentlemen opposite has raised the imports from the United States, no less than \$37,500,000 during the short period that they have been in power. I do not intend to say much more upon this subject, but I may say, in excuse for the very incoherent manner in which I am dealing with this subject that I have been following the extraordinary course pursued by the hon. Minister of Finance in introducing his budget. "He passed from one subject to another, fack and forward, to and fro, and I am obliged to follow the very irrational course he pursued in order to be consistent. I do not intend to detain the House in speaking upon the question of making machinery free used in the manufacture of beet root sugar, that cann

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

I find that he has taken to heart the advise which I ventured, across the floor of the House, to extend to him in reference to the West Indies. I stated last year, and I repeat again, that I regard it as a most unfortunate thing that Great Britain should, owing to her hostility to countervailing duties, paralyze the industries of her possessions in the West India Islands, and reduce them to such a condition of difficulty and embarrassment that she absolutely had to advise them to endeayour to negotiate a treaty, and assisted in negotiating a treaty with a foreign power. When England has succeeded in placing the commerce of the British West India Islands, under the heel of the United States of America, she has gone a long way, in my under the heel of the United States of America, she has gone a long way, in my opinion, towards bringing about different sentiments in regard to the political relations of those countries. I do not hesitate to say, having pressed this matter strongly on the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance, that I am glad to find, as he said, in his very modest speech, that he was not above taking a little advice from wherever it might come, and I am glad that he has adopted the policy of endeavouring, at all events, to rescue Triniglad that he has adopted the policy of endeavouring, at all events, to rescue Trinidad from that condition of things, which I regard as calculated to be fraught with very unpleasant consequences. I should be only too glad if a treaty can be arranged with Trinidad that will enable the productions of Canada to go in, in the freest possible manner, sugars being taken in return. I told my hon, friend, when he introduced his 25 per cent. tariff to the West Indies that he would find it perfectly delusive, and he now admits that he has failed to accomplish what he expected. I am slad to see this additional step taken, which I say is in the right direction. (Cheers).

IMPERIAL PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

say is in the right direction. (Cheers).

IMPERIAL PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

Now, I come to the question of preferential trade, and if I am obliged to detain the House at a much greater length than I would like to do, if I am obliged to reiterate again and again, on the floor of the House the position I have taken on that important question of preferential trade, my excuse must be that I regard it as the most vitally important question that is to-day before the people of Canada. I say that any system of inter-Imperial preferential trade that will give to the people of Canada the advantage of a preference in the markets of the Mother Country, is a policy so fraught with enormous results to the people that too much attention cannot be given to it. The hon, gentleman said, and I was greatly surprised to hear him make such a statement, that:

England, which after a great struggle under Bright and Cobden, had made the people's food free, was asked to turn back the hands of the clock and tax—the food of the people. England was asked again and again to accept this condition, and just so long as that demand was made the great journals and the great leaders of thought in England seoffed at preferential trade of that kind.

That in a bold and unqualified statement, but, it is a statement, which is not horre. IMPERIAL PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

seoffed at preferential trade of thas kind.

That is a bold and unqualified statement, but, it is a statement which is not borne out by the facts. I say that the greatest journals of England have looked upon that measure with great favour, and on more than one occasion they have indicated that it was a question deserving of the most careful and thorough attention from the Government of that country. One hon, gentleman, going farther than the hon. Minister of Finance, defied anybody to show one line in anything that had been uttered, or said, or written by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain in favour of that policy. I propose to draw the attention of the House for a few moments, to this subject. The hon. Minister of Finance indicates that the Government have reached the hearts, and through the hearts, they have reached the stomachs of the peopile of England with Canadian productions, and have created a yearning desire for our cheese, our bacon, our butter and our eggs. Do these hon, gentlemen remember, that when the McKinley tariff was pessed and when the Liberal Conservative Government said that they proposed to send eggs to England, they were met with a shout of derision by the Liberals of this country, because the hon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, being these supreme on financial and commercial questions in that party, held strongly to his pet doctrine that government were flies on the wheel, and that there was nothing that they could do to promote trade in buttor or eggs or anything else. But, he has had to listan to a different story from the hon Minister of Trade and Commerce, being the doctrine that government were flies on the wheel, and that there was nothing that they could do to promote trade in buttor or eggs or anything else. But, he has had to listan to a different story from the hon Minister of Trade and Commerce, being the doctrine that government were flies on the wheel, and that there was nothing that the listance of the Chambers of the Commerce of the Empire. Ye the manufactured goods. The f

ted States was driven out of the English market by Canadian cheese long before the preference was thought of, and that ascendancy attained under the Liberal-Conservative rule has, I am happy to say, continued to the present time. So it is with Canadian bacon, As I went through the streets of London, 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 preducts. 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 Canada 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 sentiment might be added mutually beneficial trade relations, and that both combined, would indissolubly unite the Empire together.

MR. GOSCHEN'S OPINION.

I want to meet the statement made by the hon centleman (Mr. Fielding), that

MR. GOSCHEN'S OPINION.

I went 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 gave 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. Goschen, 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 colonies, the United States would have a right to interfere. I do not think the United States would have a right to interfere in the way he suggested.

I give that to the hon. gentleman from an eminent British statesman, who does not

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 Government 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 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 doctrine, to go forth to fight for it, and, when they have ponvinced the people of this country, their battle will be won.

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 Salisbury:

bury:

The greater number of the members returned to the present Parliament in 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 ascribed some portion of the unparalleled majority in the House of Commons by which your lordship is supported—especially from working-class constituencies.

Now, Sir, there is the fact, and met the

constituencies.

Now, Sir, there is the fact, and yet the hon, 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

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 statement made by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding). Then on the 25th of April, 1892, the Canadian Parliament passed this resolution:

That if and when the Parliament of

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.

was Foreign Minister, and Her Majesty, in her speech at the closing of Parliament, said:

A conference was held at Ottaws 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 adonted 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 hetween the various portions of the British Empire are so great 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 interest and of the process.

the British family of nations.

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 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 large production in the colonies. Now, if I have rightly understood it, these articles would comprise teorn, 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 in the colonies, and wholly produced in the colonies, and 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.

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, respectually represents to Her Majesty's Government that, if the suggestion should be made on behalf of the colonies or some of them, it would be right and expedient to promote such consideration, and the formulation of some practicable plan, by summoning an Imperial conference, thoroughly representative of the interests involved, or by such other means as Her Majesty may be advised to adopt.

jesty may be advised to adopt.

I was a little surprised to learn that the Finance Minister could so asserse 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 Tupper 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 hop, gentleman went more fully in tial trade.

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

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 as it is possible for us to come. England does not expect that we should take 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 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 courtery 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 succeh 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 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, nor 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 ago 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 puspose 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 which was predicted in the early days of free trade opinion, when it was hoped that free trade would bind all the nations of the earth so closely together that it would be a matter of ecomparatively little impor

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 12½ per cent., and next year at 25 per cent. reduction. This we have done, not asking any components to the company of the second of the company of the second of the present of the present

pensation.

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 five-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 prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom under which we have prosident to the splendid freedom to

did freedom under which we have pros-pered. 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.

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 my right hon, friend in his view that inter-Imperial preference would interfere 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 does not imagine that differential du-ties in favour of our colonies, what-ever may be said for or against them, can properly be described under the term protection.

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 Tailors' Hall, London, on July 5, 1897, he said:

know what he meant. At the Merchant Tailors' Hall, London, on July 5, 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 urke upon you to take every measure that it is in your power to take to eement 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 idea 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?

The hon, gentleman was using even means to induce the Premers whom he wanddressing to take this question up. On the 21st of June, my right hon, frie

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.

our goods. This, the right hon, gentleman wid:

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 fiesh; the do not require 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.

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 re-quire 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 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 to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier)—for he spoke later:

My Lord Mayor, if our self-governing colonies desire now or at any future

My Lord Mayor, if our self-governing 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 nalf-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—

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 of

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. 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? It-will give his exact words, as taken in his speech in Toronto, after his return in 1897:

Cortainly if I thought I could have

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 it can be discussed
with a hope of obtaining some satisfactory solution of the problem.

factory 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 boon 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.

and by he is incapable of reading the sentiments of a public man from his express declaration on manifold occasions? The hon, dentiments to a scrious reflection upon his leader. As the hon, gentleman knows, the Bright Hon, gentleman hows, the

on. Joseph Chamberlain

In the meanwhile, howe that I note a resolution to have been passed un meeting of the Premie in which the desire was closer commercial arran the Empire, and I thin gested that a commissic should be created in or what way practical effigiven to the aspiration. case, and if it were the present time you were n go beyond that inquiry, wish of the other colon and of the South Africe join in such an inquiry, Government would be make arrangements for and to accept any sugges form of the reference as and constitution of the and would very gladly it.

and would very gladly it.

Does the hon, gentlems me, or any hon, gentlems or out of it, that the IChamberlain, who had folk line by line, the declars been made in regard to the Premiers, and ended these gentlement hat he wa commission to take this inquire into it—does he m that indicates there is no that we can quote a lin public journal of influence there is any utility in dregard to this matter? N Howard Vincent was intsubject, February 12, 1897, he said:

he said:

In view of Mr. G. E. Sir Charles Tupper's spaction of the Canadian correspondent asked Go Vincent, M.P., to-day wintended in the Imper respecting a tariff of p the Empire. He replied definitely, but we shall day by day, and stage cordance with Sir Ch views and those of the ernment."

Col. Vincent continues: The United Empire now numbers quite tw Ministerialists in the Br And yet, the hon, gen House that no man can land that will lend any cosmetion to these proposi obliged to detain the flo obliged to detain the Ho
this question because I co
importance, and I am an
fore the country, clearly a
great issue that is betw
Hon, gentlemen opposite
preference which we on
House think is calculated
thing ever being done the
British Government and
liament to negotiate on
cause all these questions
gotiated on the principle
We take our stand on
protection. We say we
protect the great industry
and we downle with We take our stand on protection. We say we protect the great indust try, and we couple with sition that no protection right hon. gentleman ha-repeated again and again tions, can be given to tural interests of Canad

pare for a moment with would derive in securing a duty upon the product tries going into the Britisi give an advantage to Car THE OPINION OF Now. Sir. the hon. gen every London journal soo preferential trade. Why it? They did not scoff preference was thrown a fore they were told that ing for it. Here is wha on February 13, 1896;

It is believed that the Sir Charles Tupper to the Canada to make seffort of preferential the Mother Country. It is the united Government will make a similar efficient of foreign affairs, eing Germany and Amemuch popular impetus ment.

ment.

And yet, every London to the hon, gentleman, of obtaining inter-Imp trade. Now, let me refet trade. I suppose there the board of trade of and Ottawa, who have shoulders, some men with knowledge of commercial as the Minister of Finance at the Minister of Fin THE CONSERVATIVE

Sir, I do not proposed to time than to move the rhold in my hand, and why Mr. Foster:

That all the words at left out and the followstead thereof:—"this Higher that a system of mr ference between Great-land and the colonies at the state of the state of the state of the system of the state of the system of the state of the system of the state of the state of the state of the system of the state of the stat ference between Great-land and the colonies stimulate increased pro-commerce between thes would thus promote an unity of the Empire; measure of preference w of the complete realiza-policy, should be consider

policy should be consideration of the state of the policy that day in opposition to the by the hon, gentleman 33 1-3 per cent. the pre English imports. I have saying that, although things is flourishing to-d that preference, if it she might not be very serious

It is the story of a