

then that he was serious. When this great Liberal Convention made a declaration to the world that the tariff of Canada discriminated against Great Britain, I thought the hon. gentleman was really serious. But I said then it was not true, and I hold that opinion still. I not only said it, but I proved, as I think, to the hon. gentleman when he discussed this question, that he was entirely wrong, and that he had based his impressions as to discrimination upon erroneous data which examination showed to be unfounded. But that did not cure him. The hon. gentleman, in London, committed himself to the same declaration where he said :

In 1895, the last year to which he had access to the tables, Great Britain took \$60,000,000 worth of Canadian products, while the United States took only \$40,000,000. Canada took from the United States \$60,000,000 worth of her produce, and only \$30,000,000 worth from the mother country. When the Liberal party came into power in Canada—

Mark this, Mr. Speaker.

—they thought something should be done to reverse these figures, this state of affairs. If it had been brought about by natural causes, those causes might well have been left to work out their own results ; but when they saw that they were produced by artificial means, they determined that all the obstacles in the way of development of trade between Canada and the mother country should be removed.

What does the hon. gentleman say to that now ? Was that sound or was it unsound ? Was that all a delusion ?—as I told him a year ago it was a delusion. If that is good argument, then the Liberal party having brought about a change in those figures, the discrimination, if discrimination there has been, has been increased by this Government, because the figures show that the very reverse of what he promised in England has taken place. Now, I call the hon. gentleman's attention to that, because I trust it will make him a little more careful when dealing with subjects of this kind that really require some attention.

I now come to notice another branch of the subject, and that is a declaration made by the First Minister at the Board of Trade meeting in Montreal. I wish to invite the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce to this subject also ; and I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of telling that hon. gentleman how glad I am to find that he has reached that higher stage in the order to which he and I have the honour to belong, and also express the hope that the hon. gentleman may long live to wear the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George with all the dignity which is so natural to him. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, on a recent occasion, made a speech which was in most remarkable contrast to the speeches that hon. gentleman has been in the habit of delivering for the past twenty years.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I am afraid you have not read all my speeches.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I never lose an opportunity of enjoying a thing of that kind. The hon. gentleman absolutely was gracious enough, and I thank him for it from the bottom of my heart, to say, at a famous gathering in Toronto on a recent occasion, that Providence had had some little share in the blessings that have attended the country during the present regime, and he referred to it as a happy coincidence. I have no hesitation in saying to the hon. gentleman that I would prefer to see them sit on that side of the House till the last hour of my life, than to witness any check in that prosperity and progress which every man in Canada knows are vital to the advancement of our country. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman made a statement, the accuracy of which from such a distinguished source, as he knows, will become historical, and he will admit with me that when an error is made in statements that will be handed down to future generations, it is important that the error should be corrected. He is reported to have said :

Among the many pleasing incidents that had attended the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee last summer, not the least pleasing was the manifest recognition of the right of Canada to precedence among all British Colonies, so amply shown by the magnificent reception accorded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

I say to the hon. gentleman that that is not true. I tell the hon. gentleman that no person witnessed with greater pride and pleasure than myself, the position occupied by the right hon. gentleman who represented Canada on that occasion. But that he had any precedence that Canada has not enjoyed for many long years, I deny. I say that Sir Alexander Galt, who represented Canada as High Commissioner in the city of London, was accorded by the Crown, by the Mansion House on every great social and festive occasion, the first position as belonging to the premier colony of the Empire. When Sir Alexander Galt was appointed High Commissioner for Canada, he was at once unanimously elected by all the representatives of the self-governing colonies in London, to be their chairman. When I had the honour of succeeding Sir Alexander Galt I received the same precedence at the hands of the Crown, I was unanimously elected to the same position, and during my twelve years, more or less, of residence in the city of London, no person was ever sustained in a more loyal, a more enthusiastic, a more kindly manner than I was as the representative of Canada, the head of the self-governing colonies of the Empire. Under these circumstances I say that it is not just to attempt to change an historical fact, and to make it appear that any change took place in