

THE PASSING OF TARIFF REFORM

the great Unionist party is concerned. Of the three General Elections which have taken place since 1903, the last two have been fought under the conditions of complete identification of Tariff Reform and Unionism. But the recent revolt within the party against food taxes, and the postponement of them to some future Parliament other than the next one, show that money, however lavishly expended in capturing a party organisation, cannot make certain of its prey, and that, in some way or other, the counsels of the wiser leaders will prevail, or that a revolt of the rank and file will occur, with the result that at the last moment the carefully prepared plans of the intriguers will be upset. It may be confidently expected that a similar revolt will prevent the adoption of the remnant of the Tariff scheme to which the Unionist members have committed themselves.

In conclusion, we have only to add that nothing could more effectually damn the cause of Tariff-mongers than a comparison of the speeches of Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright and other leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League, founded in 1838, and which in eight years succeeded in defeating Protection and in founding the policy of Free Trade, with those of Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Hewins and other founders of the Tariff League, who after ten years of agitation have been compelled to jettison the main part of their scheme. While the events of the past decade have been the most splendid vindication of the former, they have proved to be the most cruel exposure of the latter. They suggest that the time has come when this tariff fooling of ten years should be brought to an ignominious end by a jettison of what remains of a worthless cargo.