

for an Independent, he showed a most wonderful adherence to the Liberal party in the House. (Cheers and laughter.) In 1900, the Earl of Beaconsfield was not going to help him, nor was his independent position going to help him, so he came out in a published pamphlet as a son of labor. As an old trade unionist, did he dedicate his pamphlet? (Laughter.)

MONGOLIAN IMMIGRATION.

Leaving Mr. Maxwell, and turning to the question of Chinese immigration, Sir Hibbert quoted the now historic telegrams to and from Sir Wilfrid, saying that the views of the western Liberals would prevail with him in the matter. He then proceeded in a most scathing criticism to arraign Sir Wilfrid for not observing the pledge conveyed in that message.

This was the pledge:

Vancouver, May 23, 1896.

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

Do you favor restricting Chinese immigration and reserving Canada for Canadians and not the Mongolian race?

J. C. McLAGAN.

To this message the leader of the Liberal party in Canada made the following reply:

Montreal, May 25, 1896.

J. C. McLagan, Vancouver, B. C.

Chinese immigration not a question in the East. Views of the Liberals in the West will prevail with me.

WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. Maxwell tells us in his pamphlet of 1900: "For there is no man more in touch with the aspirations of labor to-day than is the man whom all who know him are proud to follow. What followed the pledge? Sir Henri Joly was in September, 1896, made a member of the Imperial Order of the Double Dragon in recognition of his services to Li Hung Chang.

THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY.

Referring to the argument that the Conservative policy of preferential trade with the mother country, Mr. Martin said it was an amusing criticism from the mouths of men who had advocated unrestricted reciprocity with the States. He denied that the cause was hopeless. On the contrary, there were many reasons for believing it possible. He quoted Lord Salisbury (son-in-law to Lord Salisbury), a member of the British Government, who, speaking the other day on the occasion of the fourth congress of the Chamber of Commerce of the Empire, said:

In all parts of the Empire the same ideal, the same aspiration has seized upon the subjects of the Queen—an aspiration towards closer unity—(cheers)—and this notwithstanding the fact, which we should do ill to neglect or ignore, the fact that throughout the Empire we are confronted by many different and even divergent fiscal systems. Now I think this could not have occurred unless another movement was in progress, and that is that extreme Free Traders and extreme Protectionists are alike becoming more reasonable. (Hear, hear.) There was a time when no one who took an interest in these fiscal questions, whether he was a member of the Cobden Club or an ardent Protectionist, could discuss them without assuming an air of absolute infallibility. There has been more assertion of dogma on this question of Free Trade and Protection than ever has been current amongst theologians. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, I am going, with your permission, to make a confession to-night, which I know will be classed in many places as rank heresy. I believe Free Trade not to be a religion, but to be a policy. (Hear, hear.) . . . If it is true—as I believe it is true—that Free Trade may be the right system for one country under one set of conditions, and Protection the right system for another country under a different set of conditions—if that is true, you will observe the effect it has on the subject in which we are mainly interested. It makes that problem of Imperial union not more easy but more hard—(hear, hear)—and we ought to bear that in mind. But that it is not an insuperable difficulty is conclusively proved by that wonderful creation of Australian statesmanship, the Commonwealth Bill, which has been read a second time in the House of Lords to-night. (Cheers.) The same difficulties in different degrees had to be overcome in Australia. In Australia they have been overcome, and therefore it does seem to me that probably, in a different way, they may also be overcome in the Empire. (Cheers.)

Mr. Maxwell had held Mr. Blair up as a model, saying: "In these bargains, and in the administrations of the people's road, great changes are manifest—changes which gladden the hearts of all true reformers. You will be asked in a short time to remove Mr. Blair in favor of some one who will bring us back to the dark old days! My advice to you is don't you do it. Let well alone. You have got a real, genuine reformer; keep him, and let him work out the salvation of the people through our railway system."

The speaker said that Mr. Maxwell had forgotten that Mr. Blair was