

more to create and develop that sentiment than any action that had prior thereto been taken in the history of the Empire.

Although the Liberal Government did not bargain for a preference in the British markets, as a matter of fact they got a preference. The hearts of the English people were touched by Canada's practical exhibition of loyalty and good-will, and although there was no law on the statute books compelling British consumers to prefer Canadian goods, it is an undoubted fact that since the adoption of the Preferential Tariff the demand for Canadian produce has greatly increased and still continues to increase. The trade figures substantiate these observations.

### **The Conservative Opposition to the Preference.**

The Conservative party, while stigmatizing the Canadian preference as a myth, a sham, and a fraud on the British people never by a formal vote objected to its adoption by Parliament, probably because they did not have the courage of their alleged convictions. They were, however, forced to declare themselves on the question at the session of Parliament held in 1900. Dr. Russell, Liberal member of Parliament, moved an amendment on a motion to go into supply, which was in the following terms:—

“That this House regards the principle of British preference in the Canadian Customs Tariff as one which in its application has already resulted, and will, in an increasing measure, continue to result in material benefit to the Mother Country and to Canada, and which has already aided in welding, and must still more firmly weld together the ties which now bind them, and desires to express its emphatic approval of such British preference having been granted by the Parliament of Canada.”

After a long debate a vote was taken which resulted in the Conservative party unanimously voting against the amendment, and thus they condemned the Canadian British preference.