

GREEKS WHO BEAR GIFTS.

Taking the Canadian side of the story, let us try to understand why it is that so many Canadians are either actively or passively favourable to Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. We shall begin with what may appear to be the most paradoxical aspect of the situation. We might naturally expect that the most pronounced of Mr. Chamberlain's supporters in Canada would be the farmers, whose products are to be increased in value and demand by the taxes on British food supplies from other countries. On the contrary, the most enthusiastic Canadian disciples of Mr. Chamberlain are the manufacturers, whose market would be lessened by any increase in the imports of British goods. Now, encouragement from such a source might naturally have given pause to Mr. Chamberlain and his followers. The question would naturally suggest itself—have we nothing to fear from these Greeks so ostentatiously bearing gifts? Are not these the people who, under the leadership of Sir Charles Tupper, protested so vigorously against the adoption of the existing preference on British goods? And have they not finally succeeded in having the preference partially repealed just where it was most beneficial to British industries, and just when its amendment is likely to be most embarrassing to Mr. Chamberlain's campaign in Britain?

Nevertheless, from the Canadian side at least, this apparent paradox is not difficult of explanation: the majority of Canadian manufacturers have, from the first, taken a fairly consistent position as regards the preference on British goods. They have held, first, that the preference, so far as it actually encouraged British imports, was, for the most part, injurious to Canadian industry; second, that in any case it should not have been given without demanding an equivalent preference on Canadian goods in Britain. Despite the opposition of the manufacturers, however, the preference was carried in Canada entirely in the interests of the Canadian consumer, and it has been chiefly due to Mr. Chamberlain's agitation that the preference has been since interpreted as no longer an advantage to Canada, but as a special favour granted to Britain.

THE TAX ON FOOD.

When, nearly two years ago, Mr. Chamberlain came out with his proposal to tax the food of the British people in favour of Canada among other Colonies, he was hailed by Sir Charles Tupper and the Canadian manufacturers as a welcome convert to their views. A feeling of uneasiness developed when, in some of his earlier speeches, Mr. Chamberlain seemed to indicate that Canada was expected to furnish a still further market for British goods. However, Mr. Chamberlain has explained that the British