

by the High Commissioner for Canada in the following resolution:—

Whereas the British Empire, covering one-eighth of the habitable globe, with a population of 350,000,000, can amply supply the home market with the products of every clime at the lowest possible cost, and whereas a national sentiment of mutual interest and brotherhood should promote more extended commercial relations between the mother country and its many colonies and possessions, Resolved, that in order to extend the exchange and consumption of the home staple products in every part of the British Empire, a slight differential duty should be adopted by the Imperial and colonial governments in favour of the home productions against the imported foreign articles.

At a subsequent stage of the proceedings the hon. gentleman spoke to that resolution; and before the vote was taken upon it—it was an amendment—he asked permission to amend it by inserting in it a definite amount of the mutual or reciprocal advantage that was to be given, which he fixed at 5 per cent. The hon. gentleman, in the course of his remarks on the resolution, said:

I am not prepared to advocate this policy on the ground that one or two gentlemen have mentioned to-day, namely, that it is essential to the retention of Canada by the Crown that this or any other policy should be adopted. I have no hesitation in saying that if matters were to stand as they do stand, much as I believe they could be improved and altered, we should remain, and I believe Canada would remain, true to the flag and true to the Sovereign. (Cheers.) If, at the same time, by this great Empire carrying out this policy, it will not only bind all its outlying and component parts more strongly together, but will also unite them by that powerful tie of interest which brings strength to the aid of the great sentimental tie which now unites them—if that be true, it is worth the consideration of every Imperial statesman, and I call upon every representative, whether from the United Kingdom, from Canada, or from Australasia, to say whether this Empire may not be made still greater, still grander, and still more prosperous than it is, and become united, not only for the present, but for the future. The eloquent mover of this resolution says that it would be a very difficult matter. He says you cannot advance, you cannot take a step in this direction, without abrogating the treaties which now exist between Belgium and Germany and this country, and that would involve a serious disturbance to the trade of England. I do not agree to that proposition. I say that if gentlemen present will look at the statistics, they will find that last year this country imported from Belgium £17,358,776 sterling worth, and they have only exported to Belgium £7,638,912. If they look at the trade statistics, they will find that this country imported from Germany £26,073,331 sterling worth, and they only exported to Germany £19,293,626. What follows? Why, it is perfectly apparent from these figures that if Her Majesty's Government said to Belgium and Germany to-morrow, as I am happy to say we have the pledge of Her Majesty's Government, we have the pledge of Lord Salisbury, we have the pledge of the President of the Board of Trade, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the floor

of the House of Commons, that England will avail herself of the earliest opportunity of getting rid of these two properly-termed unlucky treaties—(cheers)—the result will be to draw England and her colonies more closely together than they are at present, by fiscal relations which shall place the colonies and the colonists of England in a different position from foreign countries and foreigners. (Cheers.) Why should England wish to make foreigners of her own people? Does any other country in the world do it? Does France make foreigners of her colonists? Does Spain treat her colonists as foreigners? By no means. England stands alone in that regard, and I am not surprised to know that every statesman, Liberal and Conservative, in this country, agrees that it is most desirable to get rid of those treaties that compel England for ever to treat her own colonists as foreigners.

We have the testimony of hon. gentlemen opposite that the faith of the statesmen of Great Britain is pledged that these treaties shall not stand in the way of better trade relations between the mother country and her colonies. Does the hon. gentleman mean to tell me that he believes that while every statesman, Liberal and Conservative, in England entertains the common opinion that it is advisable to get rid of these treaties, and that while he believes the governing authorities in the old country are absolutely determined to get rid of these treaties, they will not be able to do so? Is that the position which the hon. gentleman takes? He then proceeded to say:

But what is the difficulty? Why, it is perfectly palpable, if you look at the much greater importance that these treaties are to both Belgium and Germany than they are to this country, that you are in a position to say to both Belgium and Germany that what England wants is to eliminate this single clause from that treaty, that prevents our treating the outlying portions of the Empire as every country in the world treats the outlying portions of their empire; and if you do not do it, we shall be compelled to denounce the whole treaty. Does any person, looking at those figures showing the enormous import into this country of Belgian and German products over and above all that this country sends to them, suppose that, with such an enormous balance of trade in favour of both Belgium and Germany, they would not at once agree to the elimination of this objectionable clause rather than lose the enormous advantages that they gain under it?

That was the position.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Precisely, and I adhere to every word of it now.

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS. Then if the hon. gentleman adheres to every word of it now, does he think that there will be any difficulty in that country in which, according to his own statement, the First Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and every statesman, both Liberal and Conservative, is committed to getting rid of these treaties, there will be any difficulty in coming to an arrangement of this matter