

Mr. Chamberlain has conceived the subject of preferential tariffs within the Empire to be of such importance that he has resigned from the British Government for the purpose of undertaking the task of convincing the British people of the wisdom of adopting his policy, and it may safely be said that there is no question which is agitating the minds of the electors of the United Kingdom so much at the present time, as the adoption of the policy which Mr. Chamberlain has proposed. Canada has no right to interpose any opinion, or to take any part in a subject which is one for the consideration of the people of Great Britain, as it affects themselves. It remains for the people of Great Britain to settle the question, and decide for themselves, whether they will adopt the preferential system or not. If they decide in favor of such policy, then it will remain for Great Britain and Canada to enter into negotiations, and settle the manner in which the policy can best be carried out so far as Canada is concerned. That is the status of the question at the present time. It is the opinion of all impartial observers that the policy of preferential trading within the Empire has made tremendous progress in the minds of British people within the last three years, and it is beyond dispute that the results thus attained have been the direct result of the policy which has been followed by the Canadian Government.

It appears perfectly clear, therefore, that no steps could have been taken by Canada which would more effectually promote reciprocal preferential trade between Canada and Great Britain, than the steps which have been taken since 1897.