

"That the House regards the principle of British preference in the Canadian customs tariff as one which in its application has already resulted, and will, in 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 finally 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."

This was an endorsement after experience of the policy of preference to the Motherland, and its passage practically made the policy a permanent one. What was the record of the Conservative party on that occasion? The Right Hon. Sir Charles Tupper made a long speech against the adoption of this resolution. The Hon. George E. Foster placed himself on record in no uncertain terms. Other leading members of the Conservative party also spoke against the resolution, and eventually on March 20th, when a vote was taken on Mr. Russell's amendment, we find that Mr. R. L. Borden, now the leader of the Opposition, the Hon. George E. Foster, and the other Conservative Members of the House, voted against the resolution, or in other words, against closer trade relations between Canada and the Mother Country. It so happened that the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper was absent from the House when the vote was taken, but the record shows that he was paired in opposition to the resolution.

TORY OBSTRUCTION, OR WHY THE AGREEMENT WAS NOT PASSED

There seems no possible ground left on which the Opposition can be based, except that of Party Opposition. That the Opposition should thus attack us seems all the more extraordinary inasmuch as the Tory party has consistently, until the Liberals came into power, attempted to get from the United States just such Reciprocity. It is another instance of the present leaders turning their backs on the policy of their predecessors. When the Tory party was strong, vigorous, and successful, under men like Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, and Sir John Thompson, it was strongly in favour of Reciprocity. To-day, torn by dissension, uncontrolled by its leaders, and weakened by mistakes, it keeps up a persistent, factious, and unreasoning obstruction to this arrangement.