

also of her world-wide possessions. (Applause.) Surely, sir, when every foreign nation was and is hedging itself round with a tariff wall in order to shut out the produce of all other countries, our manifest duty was and is to lay foundations for developing our trade in the only profitable market likely to be accessible to us—the *great British world-empire* of four hundred millions to which we are so proud to belong. (Cheers.) In this spirit, Mr. Chairman, we inaugurated a policy of that nature in 1897, when we placed our British preference on the statute book of Canada. (Hear, hear.) Our opponents say we should have dickered for value in return. (Oh! oh!) It is true we did not dicker for value in return. When did Great Britain ever dicker with us about getting value in return, when on many occasions she was prepared to pour out her money and her men in defence of the sacred soil of Canada? (Hear, hear.) No, Mr. Chairman, we adopted another and higher course, treating Great Britain not as an alien country, but as our mother country—(cheers)—and with that liberality which she has ever shown us, conscious that ingratitude is not one of her faults, and with some hope that, as changing conditions admitted of it, our example might by degrees be followed by Great Britain herself, and by other portions of the empire, until at last each portion might enjoy throughout the whole empire trade advantages not shared in by foreign nations. (Loud cheers.)

#### A Preference for Canada.

How has Great Britain already treated us since we granted her this preference? Till then our produce was little known or appreciated in her markets, and much was sold under the name "American." Now it no longer enters that market under an alias, but under its true name "Canadian." (Hear, hear.) That name is now popular, respected and beloved in England, and sells our produce and wins for it a preference, thus increasing the demand for Canadian products. (Cheers.) In consequence, since the establishment of the preference five years ago our farmers have sold more and more of their products in the British markets, the total value having increased from about \$47,000,000 in 1896-7, to over \$80,000,000 in 1901-2. Nor have our manufacturers been less favored, for in the same period their sales to Great Britain have increased over 100 per cent. (Applause.)

#### Growth of Imperial Sentiment.

Sir, these results are not accidents, but the direct result of our British preference, which our opponents wish to repeal. With such magnificent results as these within the short space of five years, what may we not reasonably expect as the years roll by? Nor does it seem an idle dream to hope that *our example may be followed* by the rest of the empire. Already the heaven appears to be working, for, as you are aware, a resolution was unanimously adopted by Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony and Natal, at the Imperial Conference held in London three months ago, favoring an inter-Imperial tariff preference, and suggesting action in that direction by the mother country.