

dependencies of the Empire by a system of mutual trade preferences. Our Prime Minister is quite ready to interfere in the domestic affairs of Great Britain when he considers that his political interests call upon him to take that course. On this great question, however, his action, or rather inaction, seems to have resulted from a singular reluctance to advocate that which he admits to be for the advantage not only of Canada, but of the Empire. I submit to you as another article of Conservative policy,

**The promotion, by negotiation, legislation and other constitutional means, of a system of mutual preferential trade within the Empire.**

#### PROVINCIAL CONTROL OF PROVINCIAL DOMAIN.

In 1905, the Conservatives took the position that under our constitution the public domain within each province ought to be committed to the management and administration of the people of that province through their provincial governments. That was the basis of arrangement between the four provinces originally constituting the Dominion. At the present time every province in Canada controls and administers its public lands except the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Manitoba very little public domain now remains except the swamp lands, a considerable portion of which has already been transferred to the provincial government. Curiously enough the Dominion Government thoroughly admits the justice of the claims of the two new provinces by providing in their constitution for an annual payment to each province as compensation for the lands which have been withheld. There was no substantial argument against committing the lands to the administration of the provinces. The principal objection raised was that immigration might be checked by an unwise provincial policy.

#### PROVINCES THEMSELVES MOST DEEPLY INTERESTED.

Let it be remembered that the new provinces are more deeply interested in continuing the volume of immigration than are the people of Eastern Canada. The future of those provinces, the value of the holdings of every inhabitant therein, will depend in some considerable measure upon the advent from year to year of additional population. Evidently the true reason which caused the Dominion Government to withhold the lands is the desire to retain them for the purpose of influencing votes of new settlers, and in order to provide vast fortunes for certain favored