

That was very satisfactory. Now, I have laid my hand on the extract from the "Times" to which I have already referred, and if the House will allow me, I will read it. On February 13, that paper said :

It is believed that the accession of Sir Charles Tupper to the Ministry will lead Canada to make some kind of an effort of preferential trade with the mother country. It is probable that the united governments of Australia will make a similar effort. The recent turn of foreign affairs, especially regarding Germany and America, have given much popular impetus to this movement.

Now, Sir, that was the position in which this question of preferential trade stood; and if ever a Government desired to promote the unity of the Empire and to establish closer trade relations with Great Britain, as the hon. First Minister had pledged himself that he did, this Government certainly had the invitation tendered from Her Majesty's Government to propound a plan under which preferential trade should be established. No hon. gentleman on either side of this House would hesitate for one moment to admit that it would be an enormous advantage to Canada, it would bring millions of capital and people into our country for the purpose of developing our great resources, if the products of Canada had such a position in the markets of Great Britain, which they do not now enjoy. It is true, England receives all our products without imposing any duty upon them: but is that any favour to us? Does not England do the same thing for the United States of America, who meet her with the most hostile tariff possible? Does she not do the same thing for Germany, Russia and every other country in the world? But, while she is thus giving us no favour, she says to us in the plainest terms: "We are quite prepared to meet you half way: the public mind of this country has so changed in relation to this question that we are quite prepared to consider the propriety of giving your wheat, cattle and various other products preferential treatment in the illimitable market of the United Kingdom, where some £200,000,000 sterling are expended on various kinds of food products." She says; "We are prepared to give you a better position and better terms in our markets than we give to the outside world, provided you now develop a scheme." If ever there was an opportunity held out to a country to take advantage of a plan calculated not only to develop the resources of Canada, but at the same time to promote the unity and greatness of the Empire, it was found in the position in which this question stood when hon. gentlemen opposite came into power.

What have they done? Instead of carrying out the pledge solemnly given by the First Minister that as soon as he came into power, he would address himself to this question of obtaining, not differential trade, but preferential trade, which would give Canada enormous advantages, we find that question of preferential treatment, with all

its glowing prospects and the opportunities it presented for drawing Canada and the mother country more closely together and at the same time greatly increasing the expansion and development of our country, thrust away and this miserable system of differential treatment undertaken in the teeth of treaties and obligations the mother country is bound. As Mr. Chamberlain said, this matter had received an immense impetus from the Venezuelan difficulty. The moment that England was threatened on the one side by the United States and on the other by Germany, the mind of the intelligent people of England was turned to the question of where England was to get her food. Everybody who knows anything of the question knows that, depending, as England does, on the import of such an enormous quantity of food products, a comparatively short period would bring her into the most dire straits for the want of food. The attention of public men, statesmen and publicists, was then drawn to the question as to what sources of food supply England could look to. Every one knows the boundless capacity of our North-west, every one knows that the shortest line of communication with the food supply and the most easily defended by England would be the Dominion of Canada, and calculations were made. Mr. Long published an article in the "Nineteenth Century," on our food supply, which attracted great attention. He said:

Under conditions which could be created in a few years by the co-operation of the British Government with the governments of our great colonies, all the surplus breadstuffs we require, as well as the more luxurious products of the soil, could be produced in Canada, Australasia, India and South Africa.

In the Canadian North-west 55,550 families, each occupying a quarter-section of land or more, and growing one hundred acres of wheat, would suffice for the purpose. Canada is quite equal to the occasion, and there are thousands of our sturdy sons who would gladly undertake wheat production there or elsewhere in the Empire, if it became worth their while. As a matter of fact, there are millions of acres of wheat land in Canada waiting for occupation.

What did one of the leading journals in London say at the same time? In January, 1896, the "Saturday Review," said:

As soon as America is conciliated, we must proceed to set our house in order. The greater part of the emigration into the United States comes from these islands. It would need but little to deflect the major part of it from the American North-west to the Canadian North-west. A ten-per-cent differential duty in favour of our colonies would settle up Manitoba in ten years, instead of settling up Minnesota and Dakota. This differential duty would restore prosperity to New Zealand and enrich Australia and Canada. There is a kernel of good even in things evil. Pressure from the outside, science tells us, increases the cohesion between the units that compose the body corporate. The threat of war by America will cause Englishmen to hold more closely together, and will diminish that selfishness on the