

to increase the British preferential rates 5 per cent, and to say that it was done for purposes of revenue is a proposition to which I cannot subscribe. It is trifling with truth and facts. Additions to the tariff restrict trade and reduce revenue. The proposal to increase protective tariffs in war time is without parallel, I think. It does look as if under the banner of War, the Government has brought into the citadel a tariff for protection and not for revenue, and we are not even told how long the mis-named stranger is to be within our gates. It is, I predict, likely to continue in force as long as the present Conservative party remains in power.

The British Preferential Tariff.

The British preferential tariff was established to promote trade with the Mother Country. In that respect, since it was introduced by the Laurier Government, it has been successful. It has encouraged a preference in the British market for Canadian productions and has given an impetus to the investment of Canadian securities in Great Britain. But the general tariff as amended to-day is such as to diminish the value and destroy the purpose of the Preferential tariff to Great Britain. Further, when Britain is financing our war obligations, when her artisans are enduring fresh burdens, when labor is scarce for manufacturing purposes owing to the vast army of former artisans that are upon the battlefield, when ocean traffic and insurance rates alone minimize if not destroy the effect of the preference, what motive prompted a decrease of the preference to British importations? Surely in such a case, British connection should have counted for something. It cannot be shown that it was for the purpose of revenue. For patriotic and for business reasons, the preference to British imports might well have been increased, at least in many cases, and not decreased.

Not a Time for Added Burdens.

This is not a time for increased taxation which will be burdensome to the people. Economy and reduction in unproductive expenditure should have been the watchword of the Government. The country is looking to the Federal government for leadership in economies. The Government might have pursued that policy quite easily, and had they done so there would have been no special taxation measure this year. Additional taxation was not immediately needed for war purposes. But the Government having determined otherwise I submit that the taxation should have been for revenue purposes purely, and not for protective purposes, as the war itself works for the prohibition of international trade. It should not have added to the cost of the actual necessities of life, now extremely high, and in many instances with the supply already below the normal. It should not have been so designed as to tend to the contraction of trade. In taxing raw products and goods formerly free there should have been displayed some discrimination and discretion. The tariff taxation should have been of such a nature as to be easily remitted at the close of the war, and I do not believe that the major portion of it can or will

be remitted at the end of the war. The British Preference should not have been decreased, though its increase might be justified. The proposals are altogether unnecessary and unjust. They will not accomplish to any great extent the purposes of the Government, while they inflict unnecessary burdens upon the people, and put unnecessary obstacles in the way of the trade and commerce of the country.

LIBERAL CLUB FEDERATION OF ONTARIO.

News Notes.

Sir Wilfrid's visit.

It has been decided that Sir Wilfrid Laurier who, as announced last month, is to be the guest of honor with Mr. Rowell at the annual meeting of the Liberal Club Federation of Ontario, will be entertained at a dinner to be given in the Ontario Club on the evening of the convention. The business meeting will be held in the afternoon. There will be a big demand for tickets for the dinner but first choice will be strictly reserved for Federation members. The date will be announced to the clubs and through the press. It will be about the first of May.

Federation Growth.

Three members and one ex-member of the Legislature and an ex-member of the Federal House formed a part of the speaking battery at the opening of the new Oshawa Club at the end of March. The Oshawa Club, under the presidency of Gordon Conant, is well established in first-class rooms and it gives promise of being one of the most energetic and well-managed clubs in the union.

Tillsonburg, in Oxford County, is another new club in Oxford County. George Gibbons, candidate for London, and Mr. Claude Sanagan were the outside speakers at their inaugural. The President is W. C. Brown and the Secretary, R. M. Teall.

Mr. Arthur Roebuck, one of the members of the Federation Executive, has recently visited and addressed the clubs at Burlington, Aurora and Kettleby.

Mr. Main Johnson in the week of April 11, spoke to the new clubs being formed at Lansdowne, Mallorytown and Ameliasburg.

Other new clubs recently under way are at Kettleby, President James Archibald, and Secretary: W. T. Ramsden; Clinton, President Wm. McEwen, Secretary Thos. Hawkins; Sunderland, President Henry Glendinning, Secretary Geo. A. Heron; Maynard, President Jos. A. Barton, Secretary Judson Polite.

Other clubs in process of formation at the present time are at Gore Bay, Kenilworth, Otterville, Merrickville, Bishop's Mills, Trenton, Deseronto, Tyendinaga Township, Thurlow Township, Sydney Township, Lansdowne, Mallorytown, Uxbridge and Ameliasburg.