

States by which their products are allowed entry to that country on better terms than they receive, and they naturally conclude that it would be worth more to them to enjoy similar privileges than to cling to a mother who is so entirely oblivious to their necessities.

The situation resembles in many respects that which led up to the occurrence of 1776. They have no representation in the Home Government, they get no relief from those who rule them and who should give it; they are not allowed to sell the products of their labor on equal terms as their neighbors in adjacent islands, and their loyalty is being stretched to the limit of endurance.

Surely Cobdenism is working the disintegration of the British Empire.

THE DENOUNCED TREATIES.

With display headlines The Toronto Globe publishes the following:—

At 12 o'clock on Monday night, says The Consular Journal, of London, Eng., in its issue of the first week in August, the treaty with Belgium of 1862 and that with Germany of 1865, restraining the colonies from admitting British goods on better terms than foreign goods, came to an end, in pursuance of the notice given last year by her Majesty's Government. Just after twelve on Tuesday morning the following message from the Council of the United Empire Trade League was cabled by Sir Howard Vincent, M.P., to Sir Wilfrid Laurier:—"Premier of Canada, Ottawa: United Empire Trade League in Motherland, Australia, Africa and Oceania affectionately salutes Greater Britain in Canada, and confidently expresses the undying gratitude of the British race of to-day and for ever to their brothers throughout the vast Dominion for their patriotic and filial inauguration of preferential trade between British kith-and-kin in this, the first minute of freedom from restraining treaties. May this preferential trade grow and grow into the complete commercial federation of British peoples and possessions the whole world over, to the honor of our Sovereign, the glory of the English name and the increasing welfare of all in Britain and Greater Britain. For the Council, Howard Vincent, Honorary Secretary, House of Commons, London, August 1, 1898, (12.01 a.m.)." All goods manufactured in the United Kingdom and India, Ceylon, the West Indies, British Guiana and Bermuda, or containing twenty five per cent. of British labor, are from now to be admitted into the Dominion of Canada at a reduction of one-fourth on the duty charged on foreign goods. An event of Imperial significance, the League memorandum says, "is fully celebrated by a general holiday in the Mother Country."

Sir Howard Vincent has fought long and faithfully to obtain in Great Britain a preferential tariff by which the produce of all British possessions would be admitted to that country on better terms than similar products of other countries, for that is the aim and object of the United Empire Trade League, over which Sir Howard presides. It was as impossible to accomplish this during the continuance of the Belgian and German treaties as it was for Canada, in its 1897 tariff, to give preference to Great Britain alone. The denouncement of those treaties was absolutely essential to Great Britain so as to enable her to give preferential trade to her colonies if she desired to do so; and it was equally essential to Canada so as to enable us to give an exclusive preference to British products. Hence the pleasure to Sir Howard over the coming into effect of the denouncement of the Belgian and German treaties. Sir Howard is a leader in Great Britain of a large and influential party whose chief object it is to bring

about preferential trade within the Empire, and so was Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and there can be no doubt that politics in Great Britain were rapidly shaping themselves in that direction up to the time that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, our distinguished Premier, most solemnly assured Mr. Chamberlain and the British people, that while he was ready and willing and anxious to give preference to British goods in the Canadian market, he would not ask for, in fact did not want, any preference for Canadian goods in the British market. No wonder Mr. Chamberlain has switched off from the preferential idea, feeling that if Canada did not desire the arrangement Britain should not force it upon her. Undoubtedly Sir Wilfrid Laurier had it in his power to force Great Britain to abandon her free trade fad, and should have used it to the great benefit of Canada and the other colonies. Mr. Chamberlain, being an important factor of the British Government, was ready and willing to make the concessions that would have meant so much to Canada, and could not but have felt disgusted at the action of the man who officially represented Canada, when he declared that he would not again touch the question, even with a pair of tongs. If Canada is willing to give everything and ask nothing, why should Mr. Chamberlain care?

But hear the comments of The Globe:—

This is the expression of opinion of men who know what they are talking about, and who are strong advocates for preferential trade, not only of a colonial preference to Great Britain, but of a British preference to the colonies.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier utterly destroyed all hope of Great Britain ever giving Canada tariff preference, and yet it speaks of Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Howard Vincent being strong advocates for that preference.

JAMAICA.

It is to be hoped that the gold-tinted glamor of Imperial Federation will not so dazzle the eyes of the British people, dispersed as they are in every quarter of the world, that they will be unable to see that instead of the solidifying of the Empire they so fondly hope for, there are strong evidences that disintegration is imminent, if not already begun.

The bolt does not come from a cloudless sky. More than two years ago Jamaica sent up a cry that after long waiting received some attention by the Home Government. The complaint was that the sugar industry of the Island was being ruined because of the inability to sell the product in its natural market, Great Britain, in competition with the bounty fed sugar of France, Belgium and Germany. As is usual in such cases, the British Government appointed a commission to investigate the grievance but nothing tangible can grow out of its recommendation. Some money will be expended in the Island in local improvements, and Canada is to help by remitting twenty-five per cent. of the duties on Jamaican sugar, and perhaps investing in a subsidized line of steamers between that Island and Halifax. But even better highway roads, lower duties in Canada and cheaper transportation cannot create a demand for all the sugar the Island produces, for this country can consume but about 150,000 tons of sugar per year, while Jamaica produces about 250,000 tons.

The remedy is simple for the correction of the trouble, and Great Britain alone, not Canada, is the one to apply it, but a