

plause.) And that leads me to another question; by fostering trade with Canada you will not only make us stronger financially and numerically, but you will help to bind us together as an Empire. Trade follows the flag. Trade follows where there is the least resistance, and where there is the largest margin of profit. Has the Empire done anything to foster trade with Canada? Not a great deal. But it has done something, and we are grateful for what it has done. What more can it do? Ladies and gentlemen, if you look at the resources of our country, at its vast agricultural area, and at its latent mineral resources, you will see that there is room there for an investment of capital that, I believe, would be profitable and would yield you a dividend, and that would transfer, not to a foreign country, but to one of your own Colonies, the wealth which accumulates here, and which seems to be accumulating with such wonderful rapidity. You are consuming half a million tons of wood pulp for the manufacture of paper every year. We have in Ontario an area of supply that would keep you going for at least 300 years. That country has been thoroughly inspected by experts, and their report is that something like 300 millions of tons of pulp can there be obtained. There is one base of supply which we think might well be exploited. (Applause.) And then another question arises. You wish to defend the Empire. What do you propose to do? You must have a concrete scheme, and the Colonies are not averse to contributing towards the defence of the Empire. If you want to defend the Empire you have got to defend the commerce of the Empire, and if you defend the commerce of the Empire why not make it pay for that defence. That, I submit, is the logical outcome of the question. I say to you here in Manchester that we are willing—I think we are willing—in Canada to impose a duty of five per cent. on all importations from any foreign country, excepting the Colonies of the Empire, the money to be applied as a war tax or as a defence fund for the defence of the Empire. Will you reciprocate that? Will you impose a five per cent. tax on all imports from foreign countries, excluding the Colonies, as a defence fund for the defence of the Empire? Surely that is a practical basis. ("No, no.") You say no. Work it out and see. That is the thought I give you to-day. I am not the originator of it, and I have only one object in putting it forward. I say, if the commerce of the Empire is to be defended there must be a tax such as I have described, and that's the