

mercial Union. He is now a strong believer in the Canadian system of preferences—each part of the Empire maintaining control of its own tariff, but giving, either voluntarily or by agreement, the benefit of preferential rates to other parts of the Empire (a).

The difference between this system and Commercial Union is the difference between co-operation and incorporation—the same difference that marks all contrasts between Chamberlain Imperialism and Canadian Imperialism. Co-operation not incorporation, is a short but correct description of Canada's conception of all Imperial relations.(b).

Another of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals was the institution of an Imperial Council. Feeling that he could not propose the admission of Colonials into the British Parliament, he suggested at the Conference of 1907 that it might be

"feasible to create a great Council of the Empire to which the Colonies would send representatives . . . persons who . . . would be able to give really effective and valuable advice", adding that "If such a Council were to be created . . . it is perfectly evident that it might develop into something still greater".

Sir Frederick Pollock called it, a Council with "persuasive authority."

The Conference declined to approve the proposal, resolving instead

"that the present political relations between the United Kingdom and the self-governing Colonies are generally satisfactory under the existing condition of things."

What a great advisory Council of the Empire would be, may be judged to some extent by the proceedings of the late Conference, when, with the exception of Canada, the Colonies expressed disapproval of the British Government's attitude to protection and preferences. Canada offered no criticism; nor would she be inclined to pay much deference to the judgments of Australian, South African, or even British Premiers should they agree in condemning some policy which we had approved. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was undoubtedly right when he said at the Conference, that imperial relations must rest upon this:

"that every community knows best what does for itself."

Canada would not tolerate "persuasive authority" from any gathering outside of Canada.

The proposal of a Council is dead. At the last Conference, Mr. Lyttleton, Mr. Chamberlain's successor, endeavored to change the

(a) In "Monthly Notes on Tariff Reform" for April, 1905 (Mr. Chamberlain's special publication) it is said "that a central Imperial Parliament or Council, with power to control tariffs, is no part of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme. What is proposed is a preferential arrangement by conference and treaty between the United Kingdom and the several Colonial Governments, neither Government surrendering parliamentary control of taxation, except in the sense in which such control is limited by any commercial treaty between nations—*s. g.*, by the Cobden treaty between England and France.

(b) An Australian newspaper (The Bulletin) suggests the phrase "Alliance not Independence", saying that it "welcomes the British alliance, but detests the British supremacy."