

Treasury? None. Would it make any difference to the forty-five million people in the United Kingdom? Yes, very much. True, they would only pay in duties on wheat, etc., about the same, £10,000,000, they had paid before on teas, etc. There would, however, be this great difference: The farmers of the United States would have to pay a share of that £10,000,000 in reducing their prices of produce to compete with Australia and Canada. These two raise now more surplus wheat than the United Kingdom needs yearly in ordinary times, and the United States would be forced to undersell Canada by the amount of the 50 per cent. preference in order to induce the Great Britain buyer to take United States products. The 1d. per lb. and 1s. 6d. per cwt. preference to the colonies are so small that it would almost be absorbed by foreign competition.

Small as it is, that preference would be a vast lever to aid in settling those colonies after the war with Northern stock, as it would give the farmer in Canada a definite advantage over the Dakota and Minnesota farmers. The Dakota farmer, looking across the line, would be impelled to seek Canada, where he would have a decided preference in the home market of Great Britain. Ten years ago there may have been a doubt about the supply of food from the colonies. To-day it is proven that the three colonies can provide the cereals, the dairy products, the meats and the wool that Great Britain needs. Canada wishes to stay within the British Empire. That is shown by her action in the South African war and also in the present war. We need very many of the British manufactures—we also need the protection of the British fleet. We know that Britain needs our forest and farm products. Already the twelve millions of people in Canada and Australia have shown, by their tariff preferences given for many years, that they wish to remain in the Empire.

Unfolding before the eyes of the world is the possibility of an Empire unknown to Roman or Persian. The links in that chain have been forged more strongly since August, 1914. We stand ready now to bind ourselves to that grand old mother on her Island Shores. Our twelve millions, in Canada and Australia, will soon be doubled. Will the statesmen of Great Britain weld those links now and create that great civilized Empire, or will they go their own course and forget the wishes and hopes of the Irish and Scotch, the French and English in the oversea dominions?