

dian people, five per cent. on the cost of goods coming from the foreigner, including, of course, the United States, for a defence fund, with the understanding that all the other parts of the Empire would do the same, and there would thus be provided a considerable sum which would be from the outset appropriated and designated for the maintenance of the British Navy. It is the commerce of the Empire that we are interested in, all of us, to a very large extent. This duty of which I have spoken would form the nucleus of a defence fund, and moreover, as it would have the effect of giving the Colonies a preference of five per cent. in the British market it would meet exactly the question that we want to have met as soon as you are ready for it. That is the most practical solution of the problem of preferential trade, I submit, that I have yet heard of, and, of course, it would admit of discussion before being acted upon. The ark was not built in a day, and great nations and great political questions are not evolved in a day. We are Empire builders, and we rejoice with you in the success of the Empire, and are willing to bear our share of its burden. We ought not to receive all this protection that we get without contributing something in return. In various ways, and practical ways too, we do so already. Every dollar we spend on emigration makes the Empire stronger, every mile of railway we build makes the army more mobile in case of invasion, every man we train for military service adds to the strength of the Empire. These are matters by the way, and I only speak of them incidentally, but if another measure can be found by which we can see distinctly that we are contributing to the defence of the Empire without imposing undue burdens on our people, and if it should be adopted universally by the Empire, I am sure that the Canadians will offer no objection to it, but will willingly bear their portion of the burden. I thank your lordship for this patient hearing. (Cheers.)

The Earl of Aberdeen: I am sure we all feel indebted to Mr. Ross for this extremely interesting, suggestive and eloquently delivered address. (Hear, hear.) A full report will, no doubt, be available of what he has said, and thus his statements and thoughtful suggestions will have careful and proper consideration, and that is a great matter. Now, before I move a vote of thanks formally, and we adjourn, may I just make one or two remarks. Mr. Ross has been good enough to say that I could testify to the state of feeling of loyalty in Canada, and so on. That is so, but not only that, for I am one of those who can testify to the growth of that feeling. I was in Canada before I went there officially, and I remember when walking along in Toronto with that same good friend who has been mentioned, Colonel Denison, I said, "What a curious looking flag that is there." It was a blend of the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack. When I drew Colonel Denison's attention he looked disgusted and said, "I do not like it." Well, you do not see it now. They do not have the Stars and Stripes mixed