

about our exports? Do Tariff Reformers propose that we should give them away? If not, the results of this economical Elysium would be that our exports would cease. Commerce would be at an end, and Britons must content themselves with what Britain can produce. It is evident that, if carried to its logical conclusion, Protection of British industry is synonymous with the destruction of British Commerce, and every step in the direction of Protection, so far as it goes, has the same tendency.

Mr. Balfour, speaking in the House of Commons last Session (May, 1907), said, and I think said wisely:—

“If by Protection is meant—and it is probably the most accurate scientific meaning of that much abused term—a policy which has for its object the diverting of the trade and commerce of a nation or of the world from its natural channels by artificial legislative means, that has never been, and is not now, any part of the policy which I recommend.” *

When Mr. Chamberlain took up this question with his usual energy and ability, he did so on two grounds:—

1. Because in his judgment our Commerce was dwindling.
 2. In order to draw us more closely to the Colonies.
- Let us consider both of these arguments.

* 1907, Hansard, p. 837.