

immensely in the last twenty years. Few people in Great Britain realise to what extent the Empire is already self-sufficient in so far as production is concerned. Self-sufficiency with regard to wheat is not so much a question of stimulating production as of diverting to the British market a portion of the Empire wheat now exported to foreign countries. But if the Empire's productivity be increased, as it may be, we can not only supply our own needs but, in the Empire, have a large surplus to export to foreign countries. Hence, under a proper policy of Empire Development in this regard, there can be no risk of a rise in prices.

About half of our meat supplies are home produced; 21.5 per cent of the remainder of beef, and 64.2 per cent of mutton come from Empire sources. The question of arrangements for adequate preference to these and similar productions ought to engage the earnest attention of the Imperial Economic Conference. The very large figures involved show that in any satisfactory plan of Empire development this part of the scheme is of absolutely vital importance. But the exact method by which Empire food supplies can be directed to the British market is bound up in the agricultural policy adopted for the United Kingdom. If that policy is to include the imposition of duties on imported produce, a preference to other parts of the Empire would automatically follow. Our agricultural policy in Great Britain has been referred by the present Government to two Commissions, which have not yet reported.

As regards raw materials, the Trade Relations Committee of 1917 and 1918, and the Imperial Conference of 1918, which reviewed the Empire's resources, showed