

Canada as doing nothing for the Empire's defence. The Dominion comprises in area one-third of the whole possessions of the British Crown, and we have been warned again and again that its defence on land must rest mainly on ourselves. Our annual military expenditures are, therefore, for the defence of one-third of the whole Empire, as well as for ourselves, besides which we have spent \$150,000,000 on the Intercolonial and Pacific Railways, thus making an Imperial highway across the entire continent, which British statesmen have frequently admitted to be of the highest military importance to the Empire as well as ourselves.

One-third of the British Empire is certainly field enough, and more than enough, under ordinary circumstances, for all Canada's defensive efforts. In a great struggle, involving the integrity of the Empire, the case would be different. The Boer war proved that in such a case Canadians will voluntarily hasten to its assistance. But that is a very different thing from legally binding ourselves, like some vassal Province, to take part in British wars all over the world, and to contribute men and money to the Imperial army and navy in addition to the cost of our own defence.

The Conservative and Liberal parties of Canada alike have always been opposed to this. At the time of the Nile expedition to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum, Sir John Macdonald declined to send a Canadian corps, taking the ground that our forces should not be taken out of our own country. As recently as 1900, Sir Charles Tupper, speaking at Quebec and elsewhere as the Conservative leader, made notable references to this question. After drawing a dismal picture of the enormous taxes which would follow the Federation of the Empire, he declared that under it Canada's share of the cost of the British army and navy, according to population, would be one-seventh of the whole, and one-seventh would make our share \$46,000,000 annually! He further declared that "to compel the colonies and outlying portions of the Empire to make direct contributions to the army and navy" would break up the Empire.

Commercially, the change means "Free Trade within the Empire," thus admitting British manufactures into free competition with our own Canadian manufactures. Mr. Chamberlain has again and again declared this. At the Colonial Conference of 1902, he said that "our first object, then, is Free Trade within the Empire," and when the Colonial Premiers afterwards met him in London, he flatly told them "he would not touch with a tongue the subject of a Preferential Tariff on any other basis than absolute Free Trade between Great Britain and her colonies." At Glasgow he went even farther, and expressed the hope that the colonists would not commence new branches of manufactures which would interfere with those of the Motherland! Imperial Federation once settled, British manufactures would undoubtedly go into every part of the Empire untaxed. This would immensely benefit the Motherland, but what would its effects be on our rising Canadian manufactures, and the prosperity and future of this country?

This brings us to the cross-roads again. The interests of Britain