

pose. You have such a superabundance and you put it all over the world, and if it brings you a good dividend well and good, but charity begins at home. We must take care of our own household, and he who does not care for his own household has denied the faith. You have not denied your faith or attachment to the Colonies. Cannot you, then, foster our trade? Take the pulp business. Why not get your pulp in Canada instead of from Norway, the United States or Russia? Why not come to our copper mines for the enormous amount of copper you will need for your electrical developments in this country? And so on. These might be made sources of wealth to you and to us. All these would be inducements for the employment of labour and would tend to fill our homes with happiness and abundance. If I had time—I must not do it—I should like to discuss the question of preferential trade between Canada and the Empire. Without a single dissentient Canadians have given you a preference in their markets and will be glad when you are ready to give us a preference in the British market. The preference which we have given you means the loss of one or two millions of dollars to us in Customs duties. It is to our interest to give you this preference, and I was delighted that my esteemed friend and former colleague, Sir Wilfrid Laurier—(cheers)—had the honour to lend in that direction. The effect on Canadian statesmen was good, and the effect here, I believe, has also been satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) The question is a large one and I will not discuss it now. You would, of course, have to set aside some of your present convictions on the question of free trade. It might, perhaps, affect your present commercial relations with other countries. It is a far-reaching question and one requiring careful consideration, and the object we have in view cannot be brought about in a day. But I believe that it will be within the arena of practical politics soon. Perhaps not so much here as with us. It is a practical question, and can only be settled by practical men. Should we in Canada contribute to the defence of the Empire? Colonel Denison, the President of the Canadian League, suggested to me before I left—and his mind is a very practical one—this idea in regard to a defence fund. I do not think we can keep a standing army for the defence of the Empire, but I believe we can contribute something for a naval reserve. We have 50,000 fishermen who, with a little training, could be drawn on liberally for the navy. That would be an easy and a comparatively inexpensive matter. I do not think the Canadians are prepared just now to say that they will contribute thus and so for the Empire, but what Colonel Denison suggested was that over and above our present tariff, averaging 25 per cent., there should be levied upon goods coming into Canada from foreign countries—and that exempts the Colonies and the Empire—a small duty of five per cent., to be specially earmarked and designated as "Defence Fund for the Empire." That means that we should be setting apart with the knowledge and consent of the Cana