

protection for all other manufacturers. They knew that a blow struck at any one industry had an ultimately injurious effect upon all other industries. Now we find the Association, of which they are an element, passing resolutions in favor of an innovation most ruinous to their interests; but, in the language of an esteemed correspondent, who has been an active member ever since its institution, "the Association is much engaged in shadowy schemes of foreign trade, and neglectful of the home market, which is the daily bread of its members. British manufacturers have cheaper money, cheaper labor, cheaper freights to distributing points in Canada than Canadian manufacturers have, and the preference should be offset by higher duties."

What is the Association doing in the matter?

### AUSTRALIA FOR AUSTRALIANS.

The opening of the Federal election campaign in Australia has called forth a speech from the Premier, Mr. Edmund Barton, dealing with the trade policy of the Commonwealth.

At a large public meeting recently held in Maitland, Mr. Barton said that the Federal elections would be held at the earliest possible date that the State machinery and statutes permitted, the Federal capital would early be decided on, and Parliament would soon desire to have a House of its own. He did not believe that Parliament could be carried on either in Melbourne or in Sydney successfully, as it must be removed from surrounding Provincial influences. The customs were taken over on January 1, and the defenses and postoffices would be transferred as soon as possible. Probably the railways would be acquired by the Commonwealth at an early date. Whether the debts of the several States would be taken over before the railways was a matter which had to be decided, and was now engaging the attention of the Treasurer. The Ministry would not consider the appointment of a Chief Justice of the High Court until Parliament had established that tribunal.

Coming to the questions of taxation, Mr. Barton said that when a uniform tariff had been agreed upon, the Commonwealth would have the exclusive power of imposing customs and excise duties, and it would, therefore, be necessary to preserve the States' power of direct taxation. There must be no direct taxation by the Commonwealth except under very great pressure. Free trade under the constitution was practically impossible; there must be a very large customs revenue. For the year just ended it had aggregated £7,500,000, and it was estimated that by the time the uniform tariff came into operation the revenue from this source would be £8,000,000 less £1,000,000 lost in consequence of inter-State free trade. The policy of the Government would be protective, not prohibitive, because it must be revenue-producing. No one colony could lay claim to the adoption of its tariff, whether high or low. The first tariff of Australia ought to be considerate of existing industries. The policy of the Government could be summed up in a dozen words. It would give Australia a tariff that would be Australian. Regarding a preferential duty on British goods, he would be glad to reciprocate where possible, but the question would have to receive very serious consideration before final action could be taken.

Among the legislation to be introduced at an early date, Mr. Barton continued, were a conciliation and arbitration bill in labor disputes, and a bill for a transcontinental railway, which would be of great value from the defence point of view. He was in favor of womanhood suffrage. Legislation to exclude Asiatics would be taken in hand, as a matter of course.

Australia, with which is included Tasmania, but not New Zealand, which is not yet a member of the new Commonwealth, is twenty-four times as large as the British Islands including England, Scotland and Ireland, and is the largest island in the world. But as regards population as compared with that of Great Britain, the United Kingdom is the home of some 42,000,000 inhabitants, while Australia has only 4,200,000. In the United Kingdom there is an average of 135 persons to the square mile, while in Australia there are only three persons to each two square miles.

The history of the country has been one long record of progress and growth. It was on January 19, 1788, that the Australian colonies had their birth. On that day Captain Arthur Phillip landed at Botany Bay and formally took possession of the country. A week later the city of Sydney was founded, and on the seventh of the following month New South Wales was proclaimed a colony. Captain Phillip brought with him an establishment of about 1,030 people all told. In 1861 the population had grown to one and a quarter millions, and now it is approaching five millions. Thus the population has increased nearly fourfold during these past forty years.

Comparing the population of the six colonies that compose the new Commonwealth of Australia, we find that New South Wales—the oldest of them—stands at the head. Victoria runs it pretty close, and, as it is comparatively small, it has by far the densest population of the island. Western Australia, which is the largest of the six colonies, has the fewest people, and is very sparsely inhabited.

From the earliest years of the Australian settlements there was a steady stream of immigrants, but in the fifties—the period of the wider discovery of gold—thousands of men flocked to the gold diggings, and the population grew at an astonishing rate.

The original inhabitants of Australia—the aborigines—are blacks of a very low order in the scale of humanity. For many years they have been steadily decreasing in numbers, not from hostile action on the part of the colonists, but from an inherent tendency to degenerate, and an apparent inability to endure the altered circumstances which surround them. The aboriginal population at this time number about 200,000.

There is also a considerable population—about 45,000—of Chinese and half-caste Chinese. The influx of this undesirable element became so alarming that within recent years the different colonies have enacted stringent laws to check it; and this applies also to the arrival there of large numbers of other Asiatic immigrants.

The increase of the white population, and of the prosperity which it has brought, is strikingly seen in the growth and development of the cities and larger towns. At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign many of what are now the chief centres of population consisted merely of rough cabins and shanties scattered along the two sides of a cart track, whose places are now occupied by cities and towns equal in