

A third line of study which is brought prominently to the attention of the world by the war is that of national economic independence. The war had not been going on long before it became evident to some of the warring nations that they had allowed themselves to become completely dependent on Germany, for example, not only for some articles necessary for the prosecution of the war, but for many others needed in ordinary industries. Dyes are a familiar illustration. Even foodstuffs were in some cases obtained from enemy sources of supply. The discovery of these conditions naturally stirred people of different countries, and brought out anew a demand for national economic independence on the part of each nation, so that its power to defend itself in war would not be impaired. Other motives, however, led to emphasis of the same demand as the war progressed. A conference among the Entente Allies was reported to have been held for the formation of an economic alliance, to continue after the war, the purpose being to develop trade among the Allies and their colonies, to the exclusion, so far as possible, of the trade of Germany and of her allies.

The situation has intensified again the demands of the protectionists and exponents of nationalism, who, even in times of peace, advocate national economic self-sufficiency. For, of course, the movement is not one that originated with the war. It has come to notice from time to time as one nation or another has developed its foreign trade. It is not many years since central European statesmen talked about a "Zollverein," or Mid-European tariff union against the United States. British statesmen have from time to time discussed the advisability of an imperial customs union against the rest of the world. But the war has given a new emphasis and a new aspect to the proposed policy, and it will need careful study in order not only to prevent mistakes on the part of particular countries, but to lay