

sion that thereby they are affording a preference on British imports. And if, in return for such a preference, the British public can be persuaded to place a duty upon those articles of food and raw material which we send them, when they come from beyond the Empire, the manufacturers will hold up both hands for it, since it may have a tendency to increase the number of settlers in Canada to become customers for their goods. In other words, if Britain will send us settlers and take their produce under a preference, our manufacturers will gladly supply the wants of the settlers for manufactured goods. It is only fair, however, to many of our more straightforward manufacturers to say that they regard such proposals in their proper light. Having too much respect, alike for themselves and their fellow citizens in Britain, they frankly declare that adequate protection to Canadian industry means the virtual abolition of any real preference to Britain.

But Mr. Chamberlain himself, before he started out on his present strategic detour with a view to outflanking the colonies, was fully alive to the significance of a preference which involved as a basis adequate protection for the colonial manufacturer. Thus, in his address to the colonial premiers at the last Imperial Conference in London, having the Canadian preference in his eye, he said, "But, so long as a preferential tariff, even a munificent preference, is still sufficiently protective to exclude us altogether, or nearly so, from your markets, it is no satisfaction to us that you have imposed even greater disability upon the same goods if they come from foreign markets, especially in the articles in which the foreigners are interested come in under more favourable conditions." And, with special reference to Canada,