

to a scheme* recently propounded by a number of English manufacturers, by which it is proposed that England should discriminate in favour of food products imported from her colonies by admitting them free, while placing a duty on those imported from foreign countries; the colonies, at the same time, reciprocating by admitting British manufactures at a purely revenue tariff. Whether such a scheme as this is practically workable, without a larger and more complete union, may be doubtful; but the promulgation of it, at least, shews the growing need that is felt for some commercial union between England and her colonies as being a necessity to British trade. A commercial union would require a unity of action in regard to tariffs. If England placed a duty upon certain articles coming from foreign countries, Canada would have to impose a similar duty, or otherwise these articles could be imported through Canada and thus avoid the English duty, and *vice versa*. This commercial union then would necessitate, to a great extent at least, a similar fiscal policy throughout the Empire. No changes in the policy could be made in one part of the Empire without affecting every other part. Fiscal uniformity would necessitate a central governing body to direct and assimilate its policy; and this body to be in harmony with the various parts of the Empire could only be a representative body elected by the people; such an one, in fact, as I have described as the new Imperial Parliament.

A federation of the British Empire seems to meet the reciprocal wants and needs of England and her colonies. By it Canada would obtain that voice in the matters of her supreme legislation which must ultimately be a necessity to her, while England would have the necessary control over her Canadian subjects. The unsettled

lands of Canada offer homes for the thousands of Great Britain, who are annually driven out by the ever-increasing pressure of population; while the stream of immigration, increased and directed by Imperial power, is the fertilising influence that is required to build up Canadian wealth and prosperity. The great wheat-growing lands of the colonial possessions are capable of supplying food to the millions of the British Isles, while their development and peopling would afford an ever-growing market for the manufactures of England. This, as I conceive it, is the true 'National Policy'—a policy in which the people of England are not less interested than are the people of Canada—a policy which would reciprocally confer strength, wealth, and happiness. Does it not seem that we in Canada would do well to bend our energies towards the carrying out of this policy? Would it not be our highest wisdom to endeavour to establish such a political system as that this country, as it grows, will ultimately become an integral part of the British Empire?—ultimately, perhaps, the greatest part. The chief weakness of the colonial system of England is that it provides nothing for the growth of the national spirit in her colonies. A colony—no matter how small it may be, or how great it may become—still remains to England a colony. For the small as for the great, the only recognised official channel of communication is through the Governor in correspondence with the Colonial Secretary; the only representation of colonial interests in the Imperial House is in the person of the Colonial Secretary. As pointed out before, such representation as this utterly fails to give the colony a proper voice in legislation affecting it. As the national spirit of the country grows—as the country becomes wealthy and populous—it is absolutely necessary that she should have a voice in her supreme legislation. Would any one

* The details of this scheme were recently published in the *Toronto Mail*.