

cerned in such commerce. Nothing would conduce more to a permanent union of her colonies than a better understanding in Great Britain of Canadian sentiment and feeling, and no better way could be found of increasing that acquaintance than by increasing trade.

(2) The greatness of England depends upon the maintenance of her colonies. Every British statesman of any note, nowadays at least, admits that her position among the other nations of the world would be seriously affected by the loss of any one of her important colonies. In order to the maintenance of that pre-eminence, any measure not detrimental to her interests, apart from the colonies, is worthy of her most serious consideration. The reign of the "Little Englander" at home as well as abroad has happily, I believe, come to an end. (Loud applause).

(3) Her naval supremacy depends to a certain extent on the numerous coaling stations and harbors of refuge which she possesses under her own flag the world over. Anyone who studies the great highways of commerce with a map of the world before him can see how the loss of Gibraltar or Malta or Hong Kong or Halifax would seriously cripple England in maintaining her naval supremacy.

(4) Such a preference for the colonies would greatly stimulate the interest of the residents of the British Islands in colonial affairs and would lead, I am confident, to a more speedy settlement of the wild lands of the various colonies and the development of their resources. From this there would be many advantages: (a) the congested settlements of the mother country would be relieved, and, to that extent, the burdens of maintaining a dependent population would be greatly diminished; (b) the increased population of the colonies would give a larger market to the products of the British manufacturers, and (c) the increased products of the colonies would add to the value of British commerce and increase the freights of British vessels.

(5) To be secure against danger in time of war, it is important to the empire that her food supply should be produced under her own flag. (Cheers.) The development of the colonies, and particularly the development of Canada, with our vast wheat areas in the North-west, would furnish a very considerable portion, if not all, of that food supply.

WILL IT BE GRANTED.

It may be said that under no circumstances can we look forward to such a change in the free trade policy of Great Britain as would warrant us in hoping that her laboring classes would submit to the taxation of their food in any sense or form for the benefit of the colonies. On that point I am not so sure. (Hear, hear.) The reasons I have already stated would go a considerable distance to satisfy the laboring classes of Great Britain that a trifling increase, putting it at the very worst, of the cost of their food supplies had some compensating advantages. I have misread the remarks of several leaders of public opinion if I am wrong in believing that the manufacturers of England are not very uneasy over the admission of the products of other countries into the British market, whilst their products are shut out of the markets of such countries by tariffs almost prohibitory. A Zollverein between the colonies and the empire, as was suggested by Mr. Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary, would, no doubt, mean for some years at least a tax on many articles now admitted to the British market free. In his speech before the third Congress of