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### SIR A. T. GALT ON BRITISH IMMIGRATION.

Sir A. Galt, on the occasion of a dinner being given to him by the Canada Club, in London, naturally had to make a speech. To the question, What does Canada want? he replied: "She wants men; she does not want money, but men who make money." This is on the supposition that there is already capital enough in the country to employ all the immigrants we can get. It is certain, however, that men with capital will make much greater progress in the North West, than men without capital. Sir A. Galt thinks that no party in England ever recognized their responsibility in reference to emigration; and the consequence is that the great majority of British emigrants have, of late years, gone to the United States, whereas, if they had gone to Canada, they would have proved much better customers to England. But nothing is more difficult than to control the stream of emigration. Most emigrants accept the faith of Thackeray, that that is a man's country which offers the best market for his labor and his genius. They may of course be mistaken in the choice they make; and it is a duty of a country like Canada to place before intending emigrants the materials for correcting their judgment. This is a duty with which Sir A. Galt is charged. He says:

"My business is to show that Canada offers special advantages to British emigrants. I desire that my influence may be such that we may secure as subjects of the Queen those who from necessity or choice seek for a home across the Atlantic. I cannot help referring to this as a problem worthy of consideration and solution by British statesmen. England spent in 150 years countless thousands of lives, countless millions of money, in creating the greatest colonial Empire the world ever saw. With a degree of wisdom and sagacity never surpassed, they have provided constitutional government in the different sections of the great Empire; they raised self governing communities in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, in the Cape of Good Hope. Yet, strange to say, having completed their work to the point that it apparently ceases to be a burden to the country, the inventive

genius of British statesmen fails. They say, "Let them go."

Sir A. Galt asks the Gladstone government to turn its attention to "bringing about a closer union of the colonies with the mother country," which means, we suppose, what is called Imperial Federation, a somewhat fanciful scheme, and one in which practical statesmen are not likely to put much faith. Canada's Agent is in the line of his duty in endeavoring to show the advantages which this country now offers to immigrants. In this he will surely have a fair measure of success; though his hints about Imperial Federation are not likely to bear much fruit.

### THE PROPOSED TRADE CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

Partly through the exertions of Mr. W. J. Patterson, of Montreal, Secretary of the Dominion Board of Trade, a conference of representatives of Colonial and British Boards of Trade has been arranged to take place, in London, towards the close of next February. Commerce, international and intercolonial, will be the chief object of the deliberations. It was agreed by a meeting held under the auspices of the Association of the Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, at which the Council of that Association, as well as representatives of commercial bodies in other British colonies, were present, that while there will be 48 British delegates, viz., 8 from the city of London, 2 each from Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow, Chambers of Agriculture 6, and Chambers of Shipping 2, the colonies should have 55 representatives, as follows: Dominion Board of Trade, Canada, 10; Queensland, Newfoundland, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Natal, Tasmania, and Singapore, 2 each; Adelaide, Victoria, New South Wales, Ceylon, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, 3 each; New Zealand, 4; and West Indian Islands, 6.

Mr. Patterson, in a recent circular, expresses the opinion that it would be desirable to "secure the establishment throughout the Empire of reciprocal British trade, with a provision extending to foreign countries the same privileges, upon them agreeing to grant similar reciprocal rights to the Empire." England has already commercial treaties with nearly every country whose trade is worth looking after. Sometimes the colonies are admitted to the privileges of these treaties; sometimes only some of them are admitted to the exclusion of others; in several instances, none of them are admitted. Thus it happens that China, France, Spain, Japan, and several other countries can lay exceptional duties upon

the trade of Canada and other colonies with these countries. Of the various treaties that have subsisted between Spain and Great Britain, for a period of over two centuries, not one of them has been applicable to the British colonies.

In early times, the colonial trade of every country was a monopoly; but the latest, as well as the earliest treaties between these two countries, have all failed to take account of the colonial trade. It will be apparent to any one who will take the trouble to examine the subject, that the colonies have been admitted to the privileges of these treaties or excluded therefrom with a caprice that is most injurious to their interests. What is wanted is some guarantee that these injurious exceptions will not be repeated to the injury of the outlying portions of the Empire. If the proposed conference should have the result of obtaining such a guarantee, it will not have been held in vain.

There is one difficulty which meets us at the outset; a difficulty which arises out of the quality of British subjects. Many existing treaties stipulate that the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty shall enjoy such and such privileges, in foreign countries. Even if a treaty containing a like provision did apply to the colonies, a difficulty might arise as to what constituted a British subject in a foreign country. A foreigner naturalized in a British colony is not a British subject, out of that colony; and in a foreign country he might be refused the privileges of the treaty. Or, he might be admitted as a colonist. The point is not free from doubt; and it is one that ought to be made clear.

It is certain that exceptional treaties cannot often be formed for the exclusive benefit of Canada and other dependencies. English statesmen have a predominant idea of what the interest of Great Britain is, in the international relations of the country; and to that standard they will adhere. Great Britain has existing treaties of commerce and navigation with nearly every country whose trade is worth cultivating; and almost every one of these treaties contains what is called the "most favoured nation clause;" a clause that binds the two contracting powers not to grant to any other nation any privilege which they do not, or are not, reciprocally to enjoy. In this way, England is bound not to make discriminations against almost every one of the nations with which she has treaties. Canada is not England; and a treaty confined to Canada and some other foreign country would not violate the existing reciprocal engagements of England, provided the pre-existing treaty did not include Can-