

Imperial Government. The following pages are an attempt to indicate the points of view presented in these works. Mr. J. A. Hobson, the well-known lecturer and writer on economic questions, reproduces in book-form his impressions originally communicated in letters to the Daily Chronicle in 1905-6. His travel-notes on the West are bright and interesting, but they appeal, of course, mainly to the English public. To the Canadian the most important part of his book is the study of the fiscal question in which he analyses a number of the trade returns. In his view it is impossible for Canada to offer to the English manufacturers any preference which would compensate them for the losses incurred elsewhere by the abandonment of free-trade. According to his estimates the Canadian trade which could be diverted from the United States to England by increased preference could not exceed thirty million dollars, and even this gain is based on the assumption that Canada will abstain from further development of her own manufactures, and will continue to import the kind of goods that British manufacturers are able to supply. In the following striking passage Mr. Hobson sums up his view of our present trade policy: "The pressure of well-organized vested interests, co-operating with the growing financial needs of a government which dare not risk unpopularity by proposals of direct taxation, seems likely to prevail here as in other new countries; the democracy of Canada may prove as unable to safeguard the true interests of the body of consumers as in the United States. At any rate it is evident that Canada is going through a long era of Protection, moulded in the usual fashion by industrial greed and political cowardice. Whether the tillers of the soil and the workers in mills, mines, stores, and on railroads, who form the immense majority of the population will have the intelligence and the power to rescue themselves from the toils of this Protective serpent is a great question for the future. It arouses little interest at present. When the workers of Canada wake up they will find that protection is only one among the several economic fangs fastened in their *corpus vile* by the