

and produced a flood of Cobdenite rhetoric based upon out-of-date facts and worn-out arguments. The Congress, in passing the resolution, unanimously had in mind all these arguments, but were desirous that the Government of Great Britain should provide facilities for a careful enquiry into the question, by the appointment of a Royal Commission, to be composed of representatives from all parts of the Empire. It is not beyond the bounds of hope that such a Commission, if appointed, would eventually report advocating the establishment of a Customs Union within the Empire, the details of which would require to be worked out, having in view the peculiar conditions of each part, and in order not to sacrifice the interests of any. The report would also likely deal with the question on the broad lines of the necessities of the Empire.

Your delegates feel that this Board should continue the advocacy of closer Imperial Commercial Relations—that they are satisfied public opinion in Great Britain in regard to it is becoming more and more favorable—that the new Australian Commonwealth, working in conjunction with this Dominion, may exert a wide influence in bringing about this end, and in ultimately establishing a policy, whereby the capital and energy of British people all over the world may find employment to a greater extent in the future within the Empire, and in opening up markets which would prove of mutual benefit.

These are days of consolidation; great combinations of States or Nations in trade matters are the ones that will profit the most. The advantages to various parts of the Empire, through a Commercial Bond, would be very great, but no part would realize greater benefit from preferential treatment of the products of the other, than Canada, which has not only raw products to export in abundance, but at the present time, our manufacturers, through gradual development, are earnestly seeking for increased markets. Therefore, looking at the question from the narrowest standpoint, it would be difficult to estimate the great benefit this country would derive from being in closer touch with upwards of nearly four hundred millions of people, in trade matters.

It does not seem reasonable that the Government of Great Britain will ignore the unanimous desire of such an influential