

millions who inhabit India are also open. The markets of the Crown Colonies and of other dependencies are also open, so far as their several circumstances will permit. In none of these cases is there any Protective principle, any interference with Free Trade, which Mr. Chamberlain's scheme would remove.

On the contrary, with regard to the whole of these vast populations—composing from 270 to 280 millions of people—Mr. Chamberlain's proposal is to close markets, not to open them; to make them adopt a system which will shut out foreign goods and deprive them pro tanto of foreign markets for their own produce.

The only cases in which Mr. Chamberlain's proposal will open markets are the cases of those self-governing Colonies which, in the exercise of the freedom they enjoy, have adopted Protective systems against one another, against the rest of the Empire, and against the world. As regards these, Mr. Chamberlain's proposal would, if accepted, open their markets to one another and to the rest of the Empire, but would close them or keep them closed to the rest of the world.

Let us understand what this would amount to.

The whole population of the self-governing Colonies, according to the last statistical abstract, is as follows, viz. :—

Canada and Newfoundland (say)	5,000,000
Cape of Good Hope and Natal (say)... ..	2,250,000
Australasia (say)	4,200,000
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	11,450,000

Let us say twelve millions out of three hundred millions, or about $\frac{1}{25}$ th of the population of the Empire. So far as the opening of markets goes, it is from these twelve millions only that either the Mother Country or the rest of the Empire can hope to derive any benefit by Mr. Chamberlain's scheme.

MEANING OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S PROPOSALS.

Now let us see what his scheme amounts to.

Put into plain words, it means—

First, that this country shall place protective and preferential duties, as against all Foreign countries, upon all such articles of food and raw material as are produced in the Colonies; these duties to be of such an amount and character as to secure to the Colonies the exclusive possession of the markets of the United Kingdom.

Secondly, that the Colonies shall maintain protective duties upon Foreign goods, but shall maintain no protective duties on any goods produced within the British Empire.

Let us consider the effect of these two propositions. In the first place, as regards both of them, they involve a sort of commercial treaty between different parts of the British Empire, and they involve a treaty of a very peculiar kind,