

Dominion controlling all exports of such commodities. This expedient it is urged would ensure both the Dominion producer and the British consumer a fair and stable price, without the imposition of a tariff. (See Appendix C.).

Superficially, the plan has some attractions. It worked in war-time, and it might fit into the ideas of western farmers with their hankering after pools and the memories of the two dollar wheat of Wheat Board days. On analysis, however, it offers no practical solution. It is simply a more arbitrary and unworkable method of excluding foreign competition. Unless the plan offered Dominion products more than the world price, it would have no attraction for them. If it were to work at all, it would involve a subsidy from the British consumer through payment of such higher prices. No plan can be imagined more likely to arouse friction than such proposals for concentrating all the dealings of the various parts of the Empire in vital necessities in the hands of a politically appointed Boards, which would be compelled every day to decide between the interests of the British consumer and the Australian meat producer, or the interests of the New Zealand cheese maker and the Canadian cheese maker. It is hoped to make up for any higher price paid by cutting out unnecessary middlemen in England and thus keeping down the price to the consumer. Inquiry will make it very doubtful whether there are many unnecessary middlemen operations in these highly competitive trades, and in any case no such bureaucratic body as suggested is likely to be able to reorganize the field. Such experiments in state socialism are workable and tolerable in war-time, but there is no prospect of their being acceptable in peace.