

# The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

R. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXIX. No 39.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 24, 1909.

Single Copy - 10c  
Annual Subscription \$2.00

**ENTERING UPON JOINT-DEFENCE.** SAID Mr. Joseph Chamberlain at Newcastle, in 1903: "I think that without preferential tariffs we will not keep the Empire together." And some free-traders, apparently taking him at his word, straightway ranged themselves against Imperialism.

But, since then, other bonds of Empire have been strengthening—and British free-traders and tariff reformers recognize that in entering upon joint-defence, the different parts of the Empire are being drawn more closely together than seemed possible even a decade or two ago. To paraphrase a sentence from *The Contemporary Review* (occurring in the course of its comment upon *Essays on Politics*, by Dr. Macphail, of Montreal), there is coming about a realization that the cornfields and icefields of Canada are as much the Empire as the orchards of Kent and the commons of Surrey.

Already, Australia has embodied in a Defence Bill, now before its House of Representatives, the decisions arrived at during the Imperial Defence Conference. While the full autonomous powers of the Commonwealth are to be preserved, it is to be so arranged that all the military and naval forces will be readily interchangeable with the other states of the Empire. It is hoped after 1916 that Australia will have the first line of 50,000 men ready to go anywhere, the second line of 50,000 ready to act as garrisons, and a third line of 140,000, composed partly of men who have had citizen training and partly of older trained reservists.

If all the young lions of the British Empire do as well as this, the mischief-makers of Europe will think twice before they venture to disturb the peace of the world. Any danger to the Empire must come from within rather than from without.

"Naught shall make us rue,  
If England to herself do rest but true."

**THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE CONGRESS** COMMERCIAL bodies can scarcely be expected to agree with Dr. Macphail, when he urges that Imperialism should be divorced from all preferential trade arrangements. As a race of shopkeepers, the British have been accustomed always to mingle "things material" with "things of the

spirit." And it is not surprising that the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire adopted a resolution at Sydney, N.S.W., a week ago, favouring the encouragement of preferential trade arrangements. Nor is this to be considered as evidencing merely mercenary motives on the part of colonial representatives. A further resolution affirmed it the duty of all self-governing dominions to participate in the defence of the Empire.

Broad Imperial problems claimed much of the convention's attention. Notably was this evidenced by the carrying of the resolution of the Montreal Board of Trade (introduced in the Congress by Mr. H. B. Ames), urging upon the home Government and the governments of the colonies, the appointment of an advisory Imperial Council to consider questions of Imperial interest, especially those tending to promote trade between the various parts of the Empire.

**A STANDING COMMITTEE OF EMPIRE.**

ASSUMING that the already instituted Imperial Conferences will continue to be held every four years, it seems a desideratum that there be more definite continuity between-times. And this involves development of organization both at Westminster and overseas. No merely clerical "secretariat" in London will suffice. Both in the Motherland and in each self-governing Dominion there should be a responsible departmental head, who should be ex-officio a member of the Conference, and who during the four-year interval would act as the direct channel of communication in inter-Imperial matters. Together these representatives might constitute a sort of standing Committee of Empire, interchanging information and views. Particularly should they keep in touch with the Westminster representative, under whom would be a department with the special duty of acting as a sort of Imperial "Intelligence Clearing House." With such arrangement there would be less beating about the bush in conference discussions—whether at general or subsidiary gatherings.

Some such plan is surely not too long a step to be taken by the next Imperial Conference. And if it is taken, those with the future of Empire at heart may rest content that further needed organization will evolve itself in due time.