

mischievous. It is also to be borne in mind, that the reversal of England's fiscal policy to the extent required by the advocates of preferential trade is a vast revolution which requires time for its accomplishment. It may well be that it will not come about all at once but gradually; when it does come, those changes in our favor which are least obnoxious to the prejudices of free traders being first conceded. In that case, the duty on corn would probably be the last concession made.

For England the great need, the great desideratum, is the development, the building up, of Greater Britain. England's future is with her Empire. That is a fact that is becoming more and more apparent, and is being more and more appreciated by the English public. England's own people within her own Empire are, as has often been pointed out, incomparably better customers for her wares than are the subjects of foreign powers. This is true to an exceedingly great extent. "It is demonstrable from the official tables," says a leading English journal, "that our colonies purchase per head of the population nearly seven times more than the people of the United States." From an English standpoint then, the true policy is to develop these best markets by increasing the number of their purchasers. By giving preferential treatment to settlers in Greater Britain, England can increase the population of this country to an incalculable extent, and thus vastly develop her trade. This is England's true and saving policy, even if we give her no preference in the markets at all. We hear of our small trade with England. It would not long be small if she gave to Canadians preference in a market that is open to every description of goods we produce, and is equal to that of the U. S. and several of the great European powers added together.

Under such circumstances, the difficulty for us would, perhaps, be rather that we had too many than too few

emigrants. Our climate, however, will always guard us against an influx of the scum of southern Europe. But be this as it may, it is quite evident that the possibilities of extended trade for England in this direction are almost illimitable. A lively appreciation of this fact is taking possession of many of the leading minds in England, as is evidenced by utterances of public men, by leading articles in the great organs of public opinion, and by resolutions passed by chambers of commerce and Conservative associations. Of these resolutions the two most noticeable are that passed by the Conservative Union at Sheffield last December, and the very remarkable resolution passed still more recently by the Chamber of Commerce of Birmingham itself. This resolution is as follows:

That, as in the opinion of this meeting the future prosperity of British commerce must increasingly depend on our commercial relations with our colonies, and recognizing the fact that Canada has, by the resolution of her Parliament, invited the mother country to enter into an arrangement for reciprocally preferential duties, we hereby urge upon the Government the necessity of taking that invitation into their immediate and most serious consideration.

The resolution of the Canadian House of Commons now referred to was passed towards the end of April of last year. The resolution of the Chamber of Commerce was carried in January. So that this movement in favor of preferential trade is making such progress in the mother country that within nine months of the action of the Dominion House of Commons, a resolution strongly endorsing it is carried by the Chamber of Commerce of the city that is in the minds of all men associated with the political career of John Bright himself—and this, too, although the results of the Presidential election in the United States had become known in the interval. Could any reasonable man desire more convincing proof that this great British cause is making substantial headway in England? The cable brings us stirring news on the 22nd