

The preceding is an outline of an article which recently appeared in Bradstreet's, which, with regard to bonding privileges, shows the probable result of an extension of the Canadian tariff, including the withdrawal, on the part of Canada, of similar privileges to American railways. While this might cause considerable temporary hardship, perhaps nothing would more quickly stimulate the construction of adequate railway facilities, whether to the Eastern seaboard or to some point on Hudson Bay. If such lines were constructed the resulting benefit to Canada would more than offset any regret we might feel at the loss of carrying trade which would be suffered by certain American railroads and steamship lines.

Profit and Patriotism.

FROM the time Mr. Chamberlain first outlined his proposed preferential tariff, discussion has waged hotly both for and against. Arguments have been wrenched and twisted by friend and foe until, in many cases, all resemblance to the original has been lost. Meanwhile Mr. Chamberlain, evidently undisturbed in the pursuance of his plans, has called together a commission composed of able business men, whose duty it will be to frame a tariff scheme which shall commend itself to the good judgment of the English people. This must needs be the test of the commission's labors. Mr. Chamberlain possesses no inquisitorial powers to force his views on the British public, and must rely solely upon the strength of his position.

The English elector, like the Canadian, may consider profit before Imperial sentiment, but when profit and imperialism are combined, as in the present instance, there should be but one result.

Mr. Chamberlain has been frequently quoted as making this or that dogmatic assertion with regard to protection, but, if actions speak more plainly than words, the tariff commission is a direct refutation of the charge, and shows his evident intention of trying to fit the tariff to the needs of the country, and not the country to the tariff.

It has been said that the British elector

will never consent to a tax on food, but the proposed tax on wheat must be taken into consideration with proposed reductions on other lines, such as tea and sugar. In any case it is "up to" the Britisher to demand a definite statement of the proposed tariff platform, and to use his franchise accordingly.

Some are misled in their estimate of the situation by a false conception of the comparative values of protection and free trade. It is quite consistent with protectionist views to admit that free trade might, under certain conditions, be the best policy for a nation, and it certainly proved to be so for England at a certain period of her history; but, where were the great colonies of England at that time? And where, indeed, was the great nation to the south of us? These were certainly not serious factors in the situation in those days. Free trade is said to be commercial competition on equal terms, but the terms are plainly unequal when a country like England throws open her ports to nations which, in turn, debar English exports by high tariffs. Something in the nature of retaliation or protection is the natural remedy.

NOTES

A Canadian trade commissioner in South Africa recently booked orders for over 48,000 plows.

In the House of Representatives at Washington, an argument was recently made by Mr. Sullivan, a Massachusetts democrat, in favor of reciprocity with Canada. Such a treaty, he declared, would defeat the Chamberlain project for improved tariff relations between Great Britain and her colonies.

The preference which Canada will receive after March 31st, from the New Zealand tariff, should be a valuable acquisition in many branches of trade. New Zealand's custom is well worth seeking, as her imports amounted in 1901 to \$57,513,853. Of this amount only \$205,266 worth came from Canada.