

present large dependence upon foreign sources of supply, the enemy would not be entitled to stop the entrance of the wheat unless they had accomplished the impossible task of making an effective blockade of all our ports.

An all-Imperial wheat supply would mean a serious risk of national starvation in case of war with a single strong naval Power.

SUMMARY OF INJURIES.

We have already seen that neither by Imperial preference nor by any other method is it possible to realise the vision of a self-sufficing Empire. Even were it possible, it would not be desirable.

No preferential stimulus that we could offer would go far towards such self-sufficiency. We should still have to draw a great part of our food and raw materials from foreign nations irritated by the protective duties put upon their imports into our country. In order to make the preference efficacious, we should have to build it on to a protective system, which would impose upon our people the waste and the corruption which protection everywhere involves. Far from binding the Colonies closer to each other and to the Mother Country, it would introduce into our Empire a powerful and persistent disruptive force, substituting for the present Imperial sentiment passions of greed, jealousy, and suspicion, which genuine divergencies of business interest, disclosed in the negotiations for tariff changes, would continually feed. Each Colony would be constantly competing with the rest to get the lion's share of the preferential market, and would haggle with the Mother Country for better terms of preference; the dominance of the Home Government, by virtue of her larger population and her protectorship of the "un-free" Empire, would be a constant offence to the self-governing Colonies, generating a new disruptive power, anti-Imperialism in the Colonies, anti-Colonialism in Great Britain.

Finally, preference must certainly loosen our relations with the leading foreign powers, increase the