

old political cry, which has done duty for centuries, and was never raised with less reason than now. The Empire is at present absolutely solid. You may visit all the British possessions circling the globe, and in Egypt, the Soudan, India, South Africa, Australasia and Canada, not a sign of the dismemberment of the Empire is in sight. On the contrary, none of these countries were ever more loyal and devoted to Great Britain than now, complete proof of which, as already stated, is furnished by their spontaneous and gallant action during the South African war. The Dominion is the farthest advanced of any of the colonies, and the people were never more decided for the continuance of British connection. The only bits of cloud to be seen in our entire national sky are the revolutionary changes in the constitution of the Monarchy and the position of the colonies, which our over-sealous Imperialists are agitating, the dangerous results of which, if ever seriously pressed, would not be long in appearing.

This brings us to the proposed remedy, the Preferential Tariff and Imperial Federation.

So far as Canada is concerned, if the proposed British preference were offered unconditionally, as our preference was, it would undoubtedly be of considerable advantage. Nothing like the advantage, however, which its advocates have pictured. Their arguments are, in fact, rather contradictory on this point. On the one hand, they declare it would greatly stimulate Canadian agricultural production, especially of our North-west wheat lands, and, on the other, that the price of foodstuffs in Britain would not be increased. This is almost a contradiction in terms for if our farmers do not get better prices in the British markets, where would the immense stimulus to Canadian production come in? The truth seems to be this: the preference proposed is too small to produce very large results, but it would give a moderate stimulus to Canadian development, and a corresponding increase in the price of food in the Motherland, which the consumer would undoubtedly have to pay.

But this modest preference is not to be unconditional. We cannot take it alone. It is to be conditioned on certain sacrifices on our part, sacrifices which, when fully explained and understood, it is believed that Canadians generally will consider too reactionary and dangerous to the prosperity and future of this great Dominion, to ever give their consent to.

The Preference Means Canadian Sacrifices.

Before leaving this point, let me protest against the way in which we are being misrepresented and John Bull humbugged on this question. Ambitious politicians and Canadians touring in England, but after British titles or carried away by festive honors, have of late systematically played to the Imperial Federation galleries, and in some cases even assumed in the name of Canada to warn our British fellow-countrymen that unless they grant us commercial advantages in their markets, this Dominion will turn towards the United States—"there will be only one flag in America"—the Empire will go to pieces, etc., etc. All such statements, and they are the chief stock-in-trade of the agitators, are at once found-