

not Belgium threatened in that event to put a countervailing duty on the coal brought by her manufacturers from Rhenish Prussia. But England does not even grumble—far less threaten—and the few free ports still remaining open to her are mostly in her own possessions, and even there the foreigner, who protects his own markets, is most unjustly placed on an even footing with her. The mere expression of a wish to have such matters otherwise arranged would doubtless have prompt attention in her colonies, but free trade England is too proud to ask any favors. If our 5 per cent. duty were levied on non-British goods not to protect British trade, but to give it the preference and to raise a revenue for Imperial defence, foreign nations would have to pay a little for access to British markets, although far less than they charge for admission to their own. The slight discrimination would turn the scale in favor of English trade and an improvement in it would at once be apparent.

We have seen that nine-tenths of the cost of the naval defence of the British Empire would, under our scheme, still fall upon Great Britain and Ireland. Of the remaining tenth, about one-third would have to be contributed by the Dominion of Canada. Five per cent. upon her foreign imports would amount to about £600,000 or \$3,000,000 annually. When we consider that our neighbors to the south have much higher duties, we cannot suppose that 5 per cent. additional on goods from the United States and the continent of Europe would be productive of much inconvenience. Possibly on some articles, however, the ordinary rate of duty of the Dominion tariff would have to be modified. Importations from England would be unaffected and very likely increase in amount. Many descriptions of hardware, glass and pigments would be bought in England instead of Germany, and raw sugars would come from British West Indies rather than Cuba.

On the other hand Canadian timber would have the advantage in the markets of England over that from Norway or Russia, and perhaps manufactured lumber now supplied by the United States and Norway could be furnished from Canada. The trade in grain, flour, farm produce, cattle, fish and petroleum with Great Britain would be stimulated, and very possibly it might be found that certain mineral products, now supplied

by other countries, would be shipped from Canada to England.

India would contribute about £400,000, and 5 per cent. on her foreign imports, which are now mostly free would hardly be felt. Here too English manufactures would be benefited as compared with those from other parts of Europe, from China or the United States. With regard to Indian exports the growth of cotton, rice, wheat and tea would be stimulated, and possibly many varieties of timber be sent to England which are now obtained from Central and South America.

As regards the West Indies, it is possible that our discriminating duty of 5 per cent. in favor of British products would favorably affect the sugar plantations in Jamaica, Barbadoes, Trinidad and Demerara, and surely this advantage would not be grudged by any one to an interest which has suffered so severely from unfair competition on the part of foreign countries. Many of us indeed, believe that duties should be levied on foreign sugars, equivalent to the amount of bounty of which they have the benefit, and our 5 per cent. duty would tend slightly in this direction. It would also favor the trade in coffee, cocoa, mahogany and dye woods with British Honduras, British Guiana and the West India islands rather than with Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela and Hayti. Fruit, drugs and India rubber from the British tropics would also have the advantage.

We cannot imagine that Australia would make any objection to paying her share of the cost of naval defence, seeing that New South Wales was the first British colony to send, at its own cost and completely equipped, a contingent of troops to aid the Imperial forces, and that Victoria has been the only colony which offered naval assistance to the Admiralty under the Colonial Naval Defence act. If any inducement were required it might be found in the consideration that her wool and copper, together with the flax, gums and peculiar timbers of New Zealand, would be favored in British and Indian ports.

In what particular manner British Africa and other distant islands and possessions would be affected by our proposal it is impossible for us, with our limited knowledge, to say. But there is every reason for supposing that its influence would be very beneficial generally. As to foreign countries, they have thrown into the faces of British political economists their advice as to free trade principles, and cannot complain of our following