

the wheat-growers of Russia and Argentina ?

"Germany is now steadily pushing England to the wall in commercial competition. What will be the attitude of Germany when she finds herself crippled by this tremendous blow ? What will be the effect upon the world politics when the entire circle of British possessions around the world is drawn into one solidarity of empire ? When the same tariff fence shuts all in ? When the remotest British island has an advantage in British markets over every land that does not fly the British flag ? What will India, Canada, Australia become when this golden era of prosperity dawns upon them ?

"And all this for Hooligan ; all this for the gaunt, shrinking, wretched creature ; all this for the reeking slums that Great Britain has neglected so many years. It is not a monstrous price to pay for slums and slum products ? But so was the price monstrous when the heads rolled into the Seine. Where is wisdom and what nation learns it ?"

There is no doubt but that the adoption of Chamberlain's policy would be of the greatest benefit not only to the colonies but to the British Islands as well. For years Great Britain has been the dumping ground and slaughter market of the world. A quarter of a century has witnessed marked changes in the fiscal policy of European nations. Germany has made gigantic strides in manufacturing since a protective policy, which secured the home market to her own producers was adopted. The same may be said of France though in a lesser degree. In some lines of manufacture the United States have

invaded the British market to the almost total exclusion of the British manufacturer. But notwithstanding all this Britain leads the world in trade and commerce. Her merchants are progressive and push the sales of merchandize, whether made at home or abroad to the uttermost parts of the earth. Competition is so keen however that the profits on the mere handling of goods is small and the employment of the masses is greatly curtailed by the reduction in manufacturing which has produced a severe economic crisis.

Still there seems but little likelihood that Chamberlain's policy will be adopted immediately if the results of the bye-elections give any indications of the popular sentiment of the country. The government is losing ground and a Liberal victory would mean a protracted delay before any change could be made in the fiscal policy of the country. That there will eventually be a union of the Empire commercial and political every one must foresee. The present conditions cannot long continue as the silken thread which now binds the Empire will not bear the strain. It is unreasonable that the colonies which will soon be more populous than Great Britain itself should be protected at the expense of the home government. It is equally impossible for the Imperial parliament to levy taxation on the colonies without giving them a voice in the expenditure of the money. Taxation without representation was the moving cause which cost Britain the thirteen colonies out of which has grown the great and prosperous United States, and the lesson learned over a century and a quarter ago is not yet forgotten