

**"I Now Feel Fine"**



Mrs. P. G. Murdoch, Box 433, Portage la Prairie, Man., writes: "I was troubled for years with biliousness, constipation, kidney and liver troubles. I tried many different kinds of medicine, but nothing did me much good until I tried Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I now feel fine, but am never without these pills in the house. Dr. Chase's Ointment has relieved my husband of piles, from which he used to suffer badly."

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**Anglo Development Union**

**Forthcoming Imperial Economic Conference.**

During the last 25 years the Dominions have generously given substantial preference to many groups of the exports of the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom a bargaining has been made in giving practical effect to the policy of these two Conferences. Preference in respect of duties imposed is now given (1) on the schedule of duties imposed by Mr. Asquith's Government in 1915; (2) on the revenue duties included in the Budget of 1919 and subsequent years; (3) in respect of the articles subject to a duty of 25% per cent. under Part I. of the Safeguarding of Industries Act. A preference, though small in extent, is thus given on many groups of articles, and we can justly say that the measure actually adopted have established the principle to which expression has been given at one Imperial Conference after another, that where duties are imposed, a reduction should be made for countries within the Empire, whether the articles affected are food, raw materials, or manufactures.

Of course the articles affected have not been selected with a view to giving a preference. They are included in the British tariff in accordance with circumstances with which the British Parliament has had to deal at the time when they were imposed. The preference thus given is somewhat haphazard from the Imperial point of view, and not in itself calculated to achieve the results which the advocates of the principle have always kept in view. These preferences, however, are sufficient to show that in principle the United Kingdom is now at one with the other parts of the Empire on this question.

The Imperial Conference of 1918 made a number of recommendations for consideration by the respective Governments of the Empire as to the development of the resources of the Empire in raw materials. Practical steps have been taken in some directions, for example, by the Non-Ferrous Metal Act so far as it has been brought into successful operation; the British West African preferential export duty, the Nigeria and Malay preferential export duty, and the Dyestuffs Act of 1919; and in regard to the use of national credit for developing the trade of the Empire, financial proposals were adopted in 1921 and in 1922 to assist revival in which Empire countries should have a predominant share. The formation of the Overseas Settlement Committee (now the Empire Settlement Committee) in 1918, and the Empire Settlement Act of 1921 give good hope that in cooperation with the Dominions much may be done for settlement within the Empire; and

various measures have been taken to carry out other resolutions of the Conference.

In fact we may confidently say that under all these different measures thus briefly enumerated, practical expression has been given to every principle which is necessary for carrying out the objects of the series of resolutions adopted in 1917 and 1918; and no doubt in the future we shall be able to see the fruits of the normal and steadily experimenting on the lines which have been laid down, then ultimately a very extensive scheme for promoting trade within the Empire would be the result. But the measures actually adopted are inadequate to carry out the great purpose in view at these Imperial Conferences, in time to cope successfully with the great economic crisis through which the British Empire and the world in general are passing at the present time. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that at the Economic Conference which is now to assemble, every method should be surveyed in the light of experience with a view to the mutual adoption of an Imperial economic policy on a scale sufficient to lead to the rapid development of the Empire and to the solution of the grave difficulties with which we are confronted.

The Empire Development Union has been formed to promote this very object and has considered the lines upon which further progress can be made and difficulties can be surmounted. It is of the utmost importance that at the next Conference generalities should be left behind, and that all the representatives of the Empire should do their utmost to evolve concrete schemes of organization and decide actually upon the next steps to be taken.

The resolution of 1917 contemplates preferential arrangements within the Empire in respect of food, supplies, raw materials, and manufactures. Taking food supplies first of all, it must be remembered that the position within the Empire has changed immensely during the last twenty years. Few people in this country realize to what an extent the Empire is already self-sufficient so far as production is concerned. This may be illustrated from the figures relating to wheat and meat produced within the Empire. The United Kingdom requires about 140 million cwts. of wheat annually. Of this amount we have produced on an average about 36 million cwts., and imported from Empire sources another 40 million cwts., leaving a balance over 60 million cwts., to be procured from foreign countries. But Canada and Australia send to foreign countries no less than 90 million cwts., that is to say 30 million cwts. more than we require to import from foreign countries. Therefore self-sufficiency with regard to wheat is not a question so much of stimulating production, but of diverting to the British market a portion of Empire wheat now exported to foreign countries. But if the productivity of the Empire is increased, as it may be far beyond the necessities disclosed by these figures, it is clear that we can not only supply our own needs, but in the Empire have a large surplus for export to foreign countries. Hence, under a proper policy of Empire Development in this respect there can be no risk of a rise of prices. In the case of barley and oats the home-grown crop of the United Kingdom represents a much more important proportion than wheat of the total supply.

Australia and New Zealand send us the bulk of their exports of beef and mutton, preserved meats, rabbits, and hares, but Australia sends us none of her exports of pork. Canada's exports of fresh beef amount to 520,000 cwts., of which we get only 58,000 cwts., and her exports of mutton and lamb amount to 44,000 cwts. of which we get none. Of our meat supplies about half is home produced, and of the remainder 21.5 per cent. of beef and 64.2 per cent. of mutton comes from Empire sources. The question of the arrangements of an adequate preference on these productions in some form ought to engage the earnest attention of the Imperial Economic Conferences. The very large figures involved show that in any satisfactory plan of Empire development this part of the scheme is of absolutely vital importance; but the exact method by which Empire food supplies can be directed to the British market is bound up with the agricultural policy which is adopted for Great Britain. If that policy should include the imposition of duties on imported produce, preference to other parts of the Empire would automatically follow. But the agricultural policy of the United Kingdom is still under consideration. It has in fact, in certain important aspects, been referred by the present Government to two commissions, and it is impossible to say at the present time what will be the outcome of their deliberations.

The Trade Relations Committee of 1917 and 1918, and the Imperial Conference of 1918 reviewed the resources of the Empire, and showed that practically every requirement of the United Kingdom could be satisfied under proper measures of development from within the confines of the Empire. Since that Conference Lord Long has published a brief summary

of the present position in The Nineteenth Century for October, 1922, pointing to the same conclusion. At the Imperial Conference, and since that date, various schemes of developing these material resources have been under consideration by the Governments of the Empire. Preferential arrangements with regard to raw materials must clearly depend not so much upon the imposition of duties, which, generally speaking, are undesirable in regard to raw materials, but on a favourable disposition on the part of the Government to support private enterprise, and to stimulate the adoption of measures by a proper use of national credit. Progress, however, in the development of raw material supplies of the Empire must be slow unless active and energetic steps are taken to carry forward schemes of Empire settlement, and so provide the necessary population, and also to improve the communications within the Empire. The adoption of the Empire Settlement Act provides the legislative basis upon which schemes for stimulating the former movement should be actively undertaken. The circumstances of the different Dominions are different and no cut-and-dried scheme can be made for all. It is eminently a question in which the closest consultation and co-operation between the Governments and private bodies should take place.

In regard to communications, it would be found possible, if the stores of information in the Government offices were considered, to choose what we may call key points within the Empire in regard to roads, railways, harbours, docks and steamship lines, cables and wireless, where measures could be taken, with the aid and countenance of the respective Governments, to link up the market centres and the localities where the material resources are to be found, in such a way as to stimulate greatly the movement we all have at heart.

Measures of this kind should be taken into consideration at once. A long time must necessarily elapse before the full fruit of such undertakings could be looked for. But every step taken in this direction now would fall into line with those larger schemes of preference which we shall certainly see adopted within a measurable distance of time.

Preferences are already given by Great Britain on numerous groups of manufactures upon which duties have not proved to be of any great value to the Empire up to the present because for the most part of industries which they affect do not exist. If and when the country decides to extend its system of import duties to cover other manufactures then preference in respect of these commodities would automatically follow to all parts of the British Empire. In past controversies the value and importance of this form of preference within the Empire if given by Great Britain has been greatly under-rated. A most valuable scheme could be adopted which would lead to great mutual advantages between the Dominions and this country and to an enormous increase of their trade. Successful action on these lines means that the people of the United Kingdom must realize that their first duty is the protection of the British market against unfair competition. There can be no solution of the Imperial problem unless the heart of the Empire is sound. Duties imposed for this purpose would be a fit basis upon which to grant a manufacturing preference to the rest of the Empire. There would be no risk to British industry involved in that process, while at the same time there would be an inducement given to the other States of the Empire to reach their full stage of development. In the mutual growth of economic enterprises, bound together by reciprocal preferences, would be found the guarantee of a constantly extending market for our goods. If the present rate of preference on exporting duties is increased, and if further schemes are worked out upon the lines here suggested, we shall have found a speedy solution to the problem of unemployment which threatens such danger to the whole community.



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