

brightened by the improvement in the situation in the Balkans, where, at least temporarily, quiet has been again restored. Russia's aggressiveness is the only unpleasant feature at present, but Russia is always an uncertain quantity.

### A Clever Trade Scheme

ENGLISH business firms have at least one clever move to their credit whose ingeniousness compares with that of their American competitors. During the past year or so we have heard so much about the American capture of the British markets, that for variety's sake, if for nothing else, it is pleasing to hear that an original and enterprising scheme has been conceived and put into effect for the extension of British trade. This new scheme is none other than a floating exhibition of British manufactures which is to be sent to every part of the Empire. An Atlantic liner has been chartered, and fitted out with samples of English manufactures of all kinds. The steamer calls at various colonial ports and the exhibition of assorted wares is viewed by business men who may prove future customers. The idea of the exhibition is to acquaint such business men with the variety and excellence of British manufactures, with the hope of encouraging more extensive trade relations with the Mother Country. The first port of call on the programme of the exhibition is Halifax, then St. John's, Newfoundland, and perhaps Quebec or Montreal; the steamer will then sail to the West Indies and South Africa, eventually visiting all parts of the Empire.

Whatever may be said of the probable results of this new departure, whether Canada will or will not be thus induced to deal more largely with England, the idea is to be commended as one of shrewd enterprise. The English manufacturers have proved themselves capable of meeting trade facts bravely and ingeniously. But Canada will find this floating exhibition worthy of attention from quite another standpoint. If it works out successfully why

should not Canada make a similar experiment, on a smaller scale? We need just such advertising among our sister colonies and other countries, and a travelling exhibition of our resources and products would do something to bring more trade our way.

### Protection in Great Britain

THE fact that Mr. Chamberlain's tariff programme is not being carried out amid the acclamations which marked its commencement does not prove that his labors are the less effective. His efforts are now being employed in the endeavor to strengthen and solidify his party. He is being supported in this course by the Premier, who realizes the necessity of holding together until such time as protective principles have had time to be assimilated by the public mind.

This unimpaired political relationship testifies to the close sympathy between the two on the tariff issue. In fact, his co-operation with Mr. Balfour shows Mr. Chamberlain's intention of placing the good of the Empire above merely personal ambition. On the other hand, Mr. Balfour's attitude shows his desire that the new policy shall have an open field and a fair trial.

It will be remembered how promptly Mr. Chamberlain came to the rescue when the Opposition made a second attempt to force the Premier to a premature declaration. In the course of the debate which followed, Mr. Balfour again indicated that he adhered in all respects to his Sheffield speech. Mr. Chamberlain also explained that he had no wish to raise the fiscal question at present, and that he would continue a supporter of the government.

Mr. Chamberlain's strength is indicated by the fact that the Liberal-Unionist council were unanimous in deciding to reorganize on the basis proposed by him, in spite of the Duke of Devonshire's hostile attitude. The leaders of the Unionist party have clearly become supporters of his proposals, and it is doubtless merely a question of time when fiscal reform will become one of the main planks in the platform.