

land as well as the Dominions. On the one hand you have the teeming population of Great Britain unable to produce at home but a small portion of their food; on the other you have the great Dominions, Canada, Australia, and South Africa, whose wonderful resources are as yet largely undeveloped, which are even now able to supply nearly all the Empire's needs.

Is it not clear that that great Empire market should belong to the people of the Empire? Is that not the birth-right of every Britisher? The Old Countryman still maintains that he must buy in the cheapest market, that it is merely a matter of quality and price. The time has come to end this one-sided way of doing business. Some may say "Hush, say nothing to embarrass the Authorities in London who are busy with the world's affairs." I think most will agree that the interests of the Empire should take first place.

I believe in a matter of such vital importance it is the safest and wisest plan to state boldly what is on our minds. For twenty years Canada has given the Mother Country a preference without receiving any trade preference in return. It is now time that Canada should ask for a clear definition of policy from the Motherland - is it to be preference or not? If not then Canada must be left free to make her business connections elsewhere.

The future peace of the world can undoubtedly be best maintained by co-operation of the English speaking race throughout the world, by the British Empire and United States working hand in hand; but to make our Empire strong and take a worthy part we must make ourselves as independent as possible of foreign countries. No political action to my mind will have such far-reaching and stimulating results bringing strength, prosperity and contentment to our people, as the carrying out of the policy outlined.

I have therefore much pleasure in proposing the resolution.

The Resolution reads as follows:

'Having in mind the resolutions passed at the Imperial Conference of 1902, and the re-affirmation of these resolutions at the Conference of 1907, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed them and when they were supported by the Representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal, the first of which resolutions reads as follows:

"That this conference recognizes that the principle of preferential trade between the United Kingdom and His Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas would stimulate and facilitate mutual commercial intercourse, and would, by promoting the resources and industries of the several parts, strengthen the Empire,

RESOLVED THAT,

"The Vancouver Board of Trade warmly endorses the principles expressed in this resolution, and respectfully urges that at the Imperial Economic Conference the representatives of the Dominion use their influence to secure definite action on the lines indicated.."