

Mr. Chamberlain did not explain what he meant by the term "secondary industries," but we presume he had reference to things Canada requires or might require but does not now produce. Our principal industries are already established, and he would very kindly permit us to retain them, and to impose duties against similar products come from where they may, even from Great Britain, but articles that we do not now produce, such as Great Britain produces, Canada should never, no never undertake to manufacture; and this abnegation should be in consideration of some tariff favor which Mr. Chamberlain would have the British Government show to Canada.

This proposition is simply preposterous. Time was when it was a penal offense to send a pound of pig iron away from Great Britain, or a pound of any kind of machinery or raw material intended for the manufacture of any article that was or could be produced in that country; and every restriction possible was imposed upon the emigration of British skilled workmen; and the proposition of Mr. Chamberlain that Canada should refrain from expanding her enterprises by engaging in "secondary industries" will never be considered. It has a strong flavor of the events that led up to the separation of the American colonies. It cannot be imagined that Canada, as devoted as she is to Imperialism, would listen for a moment to such a suggestion.

Canada will go a long way and make large sacrifices for the unification and consolidation of the British Empire, but she will never stultify herself by agreeing to any emasculation of her energies such as Mr. Chamberlain's proposition calls for. It may be that there are many things which we do not now produce that are made in Britain; but it does not follow that Canadians could not acquire the necessary knowledge to produce them, Mr. Chamberlain to the contrary notwithstanding.

#### CANADIAN LOYALTY TO CANADA.

On the return trip of the excursion of members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association from the Pacific Coast, when approaching Toronto, a newspaper representative submitted to some of the members of the party the following questions:

- 1.—Are you in favor of reserving to British manufacturers the Canadian market for the products of secondary industries not now existing in this country?
- 2.—Are you in favor of leaving the tariff walls against Britain as at present?

To these questions Mr. George E. Drummond, the president, speaking for the entire association said:

On general principles the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is heartily in sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain's propaganda for a policy of self preservation in Great Britain, and closer trade relations between the Mother Country and the colonies, on the basis of such mutual preferences as conditions within the several parts of the Empire may be found to permit of.

We favor the appointment of a commission, consisting of representatives from the Mother Country and the colonies, to fully investigate the whole question as suggested in the resolutions adopted at the recent conference of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire held in Montreal, which resolution was unanimously supported by the representatives of our association.

Mr. Drummond declined to make any further or more explicit reply to the questions submitted.

No doubt Mr. Drummond voices the sentiments not only of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, but of all Canadian manufacturers, and of all thinking Canadians, and while Mr. Chamberlain's propositions are receiving the consideration of the people of this country, it is timely to hear what

some of our thinking men have to say in the matter. Mr. John Charlton, M.P., who has given the matter close attention, says that the question of protection so far as it relates to the intercourse of Great Britain with foreign countries is a matter of domestic concern to the British people, and one in which the Canadian people have neither voice nor direct interest, the position of Mr. Chamberlain with regard to colonial trade being a matter in which we have a direct interest; and this is a question to which we should give careful consideration. Loyalty to the interests of the Empire is a most commendable sentiment, but loyalty on the part of Canadians to Canadian interests should not be sent to the rear.

Mr. Charlton points out that in justice to ourselves it should be remembered that Canada has given a tariff preference to Britain since 1897. To avoid misunderstanding the situation, we should bear in mind that Britain in her tariff policy has never given the slightest return in the shape of preferential treatment to Canada. It seemed to some Canadians that the scheduling of our cattle might have been dispensed with, or that the moderate grain tax that has recently been repealed might have been waived in the case of our own exports of grain to the British market. Our preferential duty in favor of Britain rose from 12½ per cent. in 1897 to 33½ per cent. in 1899. In the summer of last year, at the Colonial Conference, Mr. Chamberlain spoke almost contemptuously of this preference. He said:—"I have to say to you that while I cannot but gratefully acknowledge the intention of this proposal, and its sentimental value as a proof of good will and affection, yet its substantial results have been altogether disappointing to us, and I think they must have been equally disappointing to its own promoters." Let us see what were the results of this preferential policy. In 1873 our imports from Great Britain were \$68,522,000. In 1893 our imports from Great Britain had gone down to \$43,148,000, and in 1897 to \$29,412,000. The application of preferential duties arrested this decline, and speedily produced a rapid advance in the volume of our imports from Great Britain. In 1900 these imports had gone up to \$44,789,000, in 1902 to \$49,250,000, and in 1903 to \$59,068,000, or an increase of more than 100 per cent. in six years. Surely Mr. Chamberlain was not warranted by the facts in the presentation of his views at the colonial conference.

Apparently still oblivious to the fact that Canada is now giving the mother country a substantial and valuable preference, Mr. Chamberlain, in his speech at Glasgow said: "He believed that the colonies are prepared to meet us in return for a moderate preference. They would reserve to us the trade we already enjoy, also arrange their tariff in the future in order not to start industries in competition with those already in existence in the mother country."

This declaration savors somewhat of the good old Imperial policy of early colonial days, when the colonies were reserved as a preserve for the manufacturing interests of Britain, and were not permitted to engage in the business of producing goods for their own consumption. If it is the dream of the Imperialist that Canada will surrender one iota of her autonomy, or will refrain from developing her enormous resources, and extending her industrial system, and will impose effective restrictions upon her own progress, then, beyond question, a mistake has been made. Mr. Chamberlain proposes to impose a duty of not more than two shillings per quarter (eight bushels) upon wheat, and upon other grains, perhaps, except maize; a corresponding duty upon flour, and 5 per cent. upon eggs and dairy products. Preferential duties would also be imposed upon fruits and wines, but not upon