

From this we may infer, that productive labourers throughout the Empire have been better able to feed, clothe and house themselves and those dependent on them since 1849 than they were prior to that year. Increased stability and union must have grown apace during the interval, as recent events in South Africa prove.

We should therefore hesitate before urging the Mother land to return to a policy so far reaching in its consequences, and under which the Empire showed infallible signs of disintegration, namely, deepening poverty and successful rebellion. Other Empires of the day under preferential arrangements with their colonies show signs of decay similar to that which prevailed in our Empire when we lost one of the most promising portions of our great heritage.

The imposition of these duties would, in a word, put out of action the most effective influence at present at work in unifying the seeming diverse interests of the various divisions of the Empire, namely, the Free Trade policy of Great Britain.

Danger to the Food Supply of Great Britain During War as a Plea in favor of Preferential Duties.

The free-trade policy of the Mother land gives her people (as it would the people of any country) access to the farmers of all countries for trading purposes in spite of hostile tariffs. The result is that her urban class can increase prosperously in proportion to the increase and productiveness of the farmers of the world. Since she adopted this