

TO SOLIDIFY THE EMPIRE.

The question of the present moment, which is probably more urgent than any other agitating the British Empire, is the question whether it is possible to solidify the empire. Now, sir, my memory goes back for forty years, and I remember very well that the time was when British statesmen thought it was not possible to solidify the Empire. I remember very well when British statesmen, and British statesmen of the very highest rank and place, were disposed to throw their colonies overboard, and more especially to throw their North American colonies. There has been a wondrous change in the spirit of their dream since then. (Applause.) Now, I have here in my hand that somewhat remarkable manifesto issued by Mr. Balfour but a few weeks ago. It is a thoughtful and scholarly production, as might be expected coming from such a source, but I would venture to say, with all due deference, that Mr. Balfour is more theoretical than practical in his treatment of the subject. Mr. Balfour speaks of the American fiscal system as one who has studied it from books. Mr. Balfour is rather like the closet naturalist—he never met the beast in its native jungle. (Laughter and applause.)

NO DWARF PIERPONT MORGANS.

Had he done so he would have known, I think, that the United States fiscal system is a corrupt and demoralizing system, that it is politically and commercially unsound, that it affects the distribution of wealth—a most important point—most injuriously. (Hear, hear.) Now, sir, Canada, so far, as yet has maintained itself as a free country; I venture to say a freer country than the United States. (Applause.) A country where life and liberty are better guarded and justice better administered. (Applause.) And I say, for my part, that, as far as I can judge, Canada wants no dwarf Pierpont Morgans, or miniature Rockefellers among her people. Canada does not want Standard Oil Companies or Steel Trusts. (Applause.) Canada does not desire to see her commerce at the hands of two or three irresponsible autocrats who can make footballs of the fortunes of millions of their fellow-countrymen. Mr. Chamberlain, who is a practical man, knows this better than Mr. Balfour, and I observe in one of Mr. Chamberlain's recent speeches he defines the United States tariff as "a tariff of abominations." Mr. Chamberlain, how-