

wise an imperial tariff by inverting the present preferential plan. That is to take the lowest tariff as the basic general tariff, then to apply a higher tariff as a surtax on the extra receipts from which would form a common defence fund, partly military and partly economic, with a third scale of higher duties to be applied to nations whose designs were inimical to the common welfare of the world. There is no reason why the U. S., or any other nation should be excluded from the benefits of this Zollverein.

On two such problems as the trade agreement and the naval question, both involving profound changes in the external relations of Canada, it would have been wise and in accord with the spirit of representative government, to ascertain the will of the country before entering on any negotiations. This course was not pursued, and the result shows how one first false step may involve the erring one in subsequent and more serious missteps in trying to justify the first error. Having negotiated the agreements before considering that under the "favored nation treaties" we've other countries would be entitled to the same advantages as Canada gives to the United States, the Government at the Imperial Conference of this year demands that these treaties may be denounced in order that the United States agreement may be carried out. The denunciation of these treaties means that Canada adopts the narrow and illiberal interpretation traditionally put upon these treaties by the United States and breaks away from the British conception. By such an adventure the last great prop in the free-and-fair international trade policy of Great Britain would be knocked from under the Mother Country at the instance, not of a foreign country, but of a daughter nation. Can anyone doubt that the position of Great Britain in maintaining her interpretation of the favored nation theory would be weakened if a foreign nation, when discussing the extension of these treaties, could quote the example of the leading British Dominion as aligning itself with the selfish and illiberal American construction which recognizes no community of interest among nations at large?

THE LIGHT OF CANADIAN HISTORY.

It was not a mere accident that brought civilization to the northern half of this continent through the hardy French pioneers who scattered memorials of their adventurous