

deride one of the greatest and most potent factors in modern civilisation, and stigmatise millions of loyal and patriotic citizens as being actuated by motives of self-interest and greed.

The writers have also made the mistake of traducing the great railway companies, who have performed such signal service in the consolidation of the Empire, for in speaking of the effects of the preferential policy on the morals of the people they write :

When Imperial preferences were formerly tried by Great Britain we know that smuggling in order to obtain the preference was extensive. If it was possible in 1842 to ship timber from Norway to Canada and back to England as Canadian timber, in 1904 it would be simple to smuggle United States produce over any part of the 4000 miles of frontier, to the great advantage of the railway companies concerned.

The "railway companies concerned" would, of course, be mainly the Government lines, the Intercolonial and the two great Transcontinental lines which will stretch along the boundary between Canada and the United States. The directors and managers of these lines will hardly appreciate the suggestion.