

In the beginning of August the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce submitted a series of resolutions to the Associated Chambers of Commerce favouring Preferential Trade; one of these resolutions reads as follows:-

"That in regard to all natural products an agreement should be made to distribute them under a Preferential Scheme for consumption at home and within the Empire."

The farming industry and labour conditions in the Mother Country are very unsatisfactory; there are vast numbers of unemployed. The Authorities in Great Britain are faced with the great difficulty of solving the question of unemployment.

The Empire has lost enormously by reason of the migration of Britishers to other countries rather than the British Dominions. There are two things it appears obvious that we in Canada should strive for - first to do something to arrest the migration of our own people across the line, and secondly to attract the most useful class of population from the Motherland and to keep them here when they come. Empire settlement and preference go together.

New Zealand gave products of British countries a preference in 1903, which was extended in 1907, and Australia gave a preference to the products of the Mother Country in 1908. South Africa also gives Empire products a small preference. These preferences to the Mother Country have given a great stimulus to the export of United Kingdom produce to the respective Dominions; Australian imports from United Kingdom increased from £34,000,000 odd in 1913 to over £60,000,000 in 1922, while in Canada imports from United Kingdom increased from \$37,000,000 in 1899 to \$139,000,000 in 1913.

The British Government has invited business organizations in Great Britain to form a Committee to act as expert advisers in connection with the Imperial Conference. In July the Vancouver Board of Trade made representations to Ottawa requesting that similar action be taken, but the reply was in the negative. We do not know what line our Dominion Government intends to take beyond the Press announcement that the attitude would be one of 'benevolent aloofness'. Let us hope that that announcement is wide of the mark and that Canada's interests may be as ably and energetically represented on this occasion as in the past.

The safeguarding of commercial interests at the Imperial Conference is a matter of vital importance to the whole of Canada and it is therefore desirable that business men throughout the Dominion should make known their opinions - hence the resolution of to-night.

If the Mother Country wisher her surplus population to remain Britishers and settle within the Empire she must make it possible for settlers to earn a living by providing a market for what they produce. Think of what the British Empire would have been today had those forty millions of British race who have gone abroad been kept within the Empire.

Is it not supreme folly that Britain, and to a certain extent Canada, should be at the expense of educating young people just to let them become useful citizens of other countries as soon as they can think for themselves. They don't leave the home land by choice you may be sure - to many it must be heart-breaking to have to leave their country, but necessity drives.

What is now needed is a real Empire policy, one which will keep the young people within the Empire. As an Old Countryman born, and a keen imperialist, I think the Mother Country must wake up and realize that within the Empire there are unrivalled natural resources, that for over a generation she has woefully neglected her duties and responsibilities in their development, and that an Empire policy is needed, a policy which will stimulate production and benefit the Mother-