

time to go seriously to the aid of the Motherland. While the conflict was still raging, Canada showed her desire to strengthen trade relations with Great Britain by increasing the preference on British goods to 33½% on July 1st, 1900. Only a few months later, January 1st, 1901, the Australian colonies strengthened the Empire by uniting in the new Commonwealth of Australia. At the same time, however, two colonies, Jamaica and Newfoundland, were trying to establish such reciprocal trade arrangements with the United States as would have interfered seriously with Mr. Chamberlain's plans for inter-imperial free trade. The time seemed ripe for another conference, and, moreover, a fitting occasion was at hand, since the colonial premiers would be in London in 1902 for the coronation of Edward VII.

On this occasion the colonial premiers were accompanied by other ministers, but the latter were allowed to take part in discussions only when their special departments were concerned. Canada was represented by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Messrs. Frederick Borden, Fielding, Mulock, and Paterson.

In his opening address (Mr. Chamberlain urged the paramount importance of strengthening the bonds of the Empire, and proposed three subjects for their consideration, political relations, commercial union, and Imperial defence. He believed that imperial federation was feasible, but he preferred an imperial council. He urged the desirability and importance of a system of inter-imperial free trade. And, finally, he appealed strong for adequate colonial participation in the defence and government of the Empire.) "Gentlemen, we do want your aid. We do want your assistance in the administration of the vast Empire which is yours as well as ours. 'The weary Titan staggers under the too vast orb of his fate'. We have borne the burden for many years. We think it time that our children should assist us to support it, and whenever you make the request to us, be very sure that we shall hasten gladly to call you to our councils. If you are prepared at any time to take any share, any proportionate share, in the burden of the Empire, we are prepared to meet you with any proposal for giving to you a corresponding voice in the policy of the Empire".

The question of defence came up first. Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, urged that Great Britain was bearing more than her share of the burden of naval defence, and that the colonies should supply not only more money, but men for the navy. Moreover, he objected strongly to the policy of confining the Australian squadron within prescribed waters. The military needs of the Empire were presented by Mr. Brodrick, Secretary of State for War, who proposed that each colony should maintain a thoroughly trained expeditionary force at the call of the Imperial Government for service abroad. He