



THE LARGEST GRAIN ELEVATOR ON THE CONTINENT AND IN THE EMPIRE.
The Canadian Northern Railway Elevator at Port Arthur, Ontario. Its capacity is 9,000,000 bushels. Canada has 2,813 grain elevators with a total capacity of 168,624,000 bushels—more than double the total capacity of seven years ago.

Imperial efficiency that closer trade relations within the Empire are essential. They are equally necessary if the individual members of the Empire are to enjoy the full measure of prosperity possible to them. Think for a moment of the tremendous commercial handicaps under which small nations or small industrial communities suffer. To bring the matter home to us in the Dominion, imagine that tariff walls separated our Canadian provinces so that goods manufactured in Ontario would have to pay duty on entering Manitoba, and have no advantage in the Manitoba markets over the products of the United States (except possibly a small preference such as that now given to British goods.) Under such conditions, how much manufacturing would be done in Ontario? Would not our entire Dominion become commercially tributary to the manufacturers of the United States and of Europe? Would Canada have the population, importance or prosperity which she to-day enjoys?

Such a condition, however, is precisely that of most of the smaller colonies and dependencies of our Empire. They do not fully realize the importance of the handicap simply because they have been accustomed to isolation from the beginning of their history. They do not enjoy that prosperity which the favour and assistance of the other members of the Imperial family could bring to most, at least,

of them, and neither do they as a rule add anything to the prosperity of those other members of that family. With the exceptions already mentioned, Imperial family favours are neither received nor given.

To be concrete, let us consider the case of the Bahama Islands. Here we have a small dependence of the Empire, lying off the coast of Florida, with a population of less than 60,000. Their fruit productions very naturally go chiefly to the United States. For such fruit no higher prices can of course be obtained, than for similar fruit grown in Florida, and the amount of the heavy Customs taxes imposed on Bahama products is simply deducted from the price to be received by the producers. If those fruit growers had located their plantations in Florida, or if the Bahama Islands formed part of the American Union, the full United States domestic price would be received for their products; but because they are under the British flag, and enthusiastically and incurably loyal, their fruit-growers sustain this ruinous financial loss year after year for all time. They pay that price for the privilege of being members of the British family. But what commercial advantage does their British connection give them to offset this tremendous disadvantage? None whatever.

The Bahama Islands suffer because they are not attached to some great country to