

that under our free institutions, men ignorant of economics, may obtain control of the Home and Colonial governments, who, unable to foresee the consequences of their acts, might use their power at the dictation of interested millionaires and manufacturers, to place its industrial millions under direct tribute to capital. This has already been done in some of the most important divisions of the Empire under the guise of so called protection. Inter-Imperial preferential duties would place the people of the whole Empire under such tribute.

The adoption of such a measure would mark the beginning of the end of British Imperial Unity.

To conclude :

It is probable that Empire to be permanent must be just, not only to its own people but to all mankind.

Protection in the guise now proposed by the preferential trader would involve an injustice to the vast majority of the people of the Empire.

It would be an arbitrary curtailment of their liberty : and

It is popularized on the small minded notion that it will injure the material interest of our neighbours.

Free trade is just to the people adopting it, and is just to all mankind; it is therefore a policy most likely to strengthen the Union and assure the perpetuation of the British Empire; which has attained its present unity, strength, wealth, and grandeur, whilst safeguarding to a greater degree than its contemporaries, the rights and liberties of all, irrespective of race, creed, or color, who dwell under the protection of its flag.