

rebate of duty being granted by our island in favor of any or all of Canada's products, and in view of the fact that Canada is not at present asking for such preference, your committee does not feel called upon to make any recommendation at this stage.

"Your committee finds that 148,816 bbls. of flour were in 1900 imported into this market, of which only sixteen comes from Canada, and they consider that with proper facilities for shipping, and if Canadian merchants are willing to give the same business facilities, there is no reason why a large proportion of this trade should not be done with Canada."

FREE TRADE vs. IMPERIALISM.

It is gradually becoming fairly evident that the time is not far distant when Great Britain will have to make the choice between Cobdenism and Empire, says the Halifax Herald. An Empire without a unifying Imperial policy, it says, is not permanently possible. An Empire of open doors, with all other doors in the world closed against it, is a business absurdity. To call that an Empire, the head of which treats the other parts as so many foreign countries, is a misuse of language. It need hardly be wondered at that the Germans should deny the existence of a British Empire, when they saw the British Motherland treating the British Colonies in trade as just so many foreign countries.

In a certain sense there is undoubtedly a British Empire. British sentiment is strong, and loyalty to the King is dominant in every British Colony on the globe. This sentiment, this loyalty, speaks with cogency and effect, and no doubt will continue to speak; but it is only reasonable to suppose that as time goes on changes will come. Every living thing undergoes changes, and a living nation and Empire must be prepared for them. Everything that is to continue permanent must possess a character, or constitution, exhibiting a reason for its existence and permanence.

British sentiment and British loyalty are strong and may be trusted to provide for the future, but if they do so it will be when the present order of British and Colonial affairs is questioned and condemned, and a new order adapted to existing and growing needs is devised. Is it to be assumed that such questions will never arise? Is it to be assumed, if the affairs of the Empire continue to be managed no better than they have been and are, that no part of the present collection of British countries will ever ask what advantage is it to belong to the British Empire? Is not this very question being even now asked? Are not the British West Indies now questioning the advantage of belonging to an Empire, the head of which has no policy for the unification and benefit of all the parts, but when they ask that the unity of the Empire be recognized and they be accorded the treatment and bread of children, accords them only the treatment and scraps of charity? Certainly the British West Indies are now asking this very question, unless current reports are most singularly false; and, finding no satisfactory answer, the people of these islands, in spite of their British sentiment and loyalty, which need not be questioned, are reported to be considering the advisability of another political connection under which they hope when they ask for a chance to labor and live, they would be accorded that chance. And is this seriously to be wondered at? The British West Indies never asked for charity; they asked to be recognized as members of the British national family and to be accorded the reasonable material benefits of such family relation. Instead of having their reasonable request favorably answered, they were treated as mendicants. And the excuse was that Cobdenism forbade

the recognition of a British national family extending over seas, or that there were no material or trade benefits attaching to such relation.

Further, is it to be supposed that the British West Indies are the only part of the Empire where such questioning may, and probably will, arise sooner or later? Is the question as to the advantage of belonging to the British Empire so very far from being asked in Canada to-day? The statesmen and people of the Motherland are finding the financial burden of defending the whole Empire very great, and they are already looking to the chief Colonies to lend a helping hand in the maintenance of the defenses of the Empire. What is the Canadian government replying? What is the government press saying? Are they offering Canadian support to the Royal Navy, or are they rather intimating that Canada might better defend herself? What do all these facts suggest? The unquestioned and unquestionable unity, solidarity and permanence of the Empire as at present constituted?

The statesmen and people of the United Kingdom seem quite ready, nay, rather desirous, to recognize the whole British Empire as a national unit when they want the Colonies to do something or give something, but they recognize no such national unit for any other purpose. In the British view of trade, the British Empire as a national unit does not exist. Cobdenism, from its very nature, refuses to recognize the Colonial Empire, and it must be admitted that the Colonial Empire returns the compliment. Cobdenism and Empire have no connection, and are not compatible with each other. If British statesmen want to recognize the unity of the Empire in one way, they must recognize it in all ways, and must adopt an Imperial policy which will make it clear to all the Colonies that it is an advantage to belong to the Empire. The best interests of all British countries lie in their present political connection if proper Imperial reforms can be carried; but they will never properly constitute an Empire with the promise of permanence, while Cobdenism is dominant in the Motherland.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the new direct steamship line that is to be established between some Canadian port and South Africa, it is desired that Cape Town be not the only port of call; and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association have communicated with Sir William Mulock, in London, requesting that Durban and Port Elizabeth be also made ports of call. The reason for this request is that both these ports serve very considerable districts, the rail haul being shorter than by way of Cape Town. Both ports are handicapped in one way, that there are not the landing facilities that exist at Cape Town, vessels not being able to unload at the wharves. Goods have, therefore, to be transhipped in lighters, and this is to be considered in the packing, especially where the goods are of a perishable nature.

Some people in Ontario appear to be making a struggle to establish a beet sugar industry in that province. As a rule we believe in a country cultivating a great variety of industries; but even this good rule may be carried to excess. It seems probable that Ontario land could be put to better use than attempting to grow sugar beet. It would be better for Canada to grow and produce what the British West Indies need, and take the cane sugar of these islands in payment.—Halifax Herald.

Our esteemed contemporary seems to imagine that while it is a good rule for Ontario to cultivate a great variety of industries, the rule is carried to excess when the cultivation