

pose of this paper is to prove (1) that the view denounced by Sir Wilfrid as "harmful doctrine" is absolutely correct; and (2) that the statement of Mr. Borden cannot be justified unless there be attached to it such explanation as deprives it of all pertinence.

Properly to treat the subject, the history of Canada must be divided into two periods: (1) The purely colonial period—from 1763 to the eighteen-forties; and (2) the later period of fiscal freedom.

FIRST PERIOD.—If I should shut up some ostriches within a fence and "protect" them from their enemies, in order that I might make money by plucking their feathers, would the ostriches owe me anything? No. And if, besides confining them, I treated them harshly, would their case call for poems of gratitude? No. Well, that is a very fair parallel to the relations between the United Kingdom and Canada down to 1846, for Mr. Chamberlain has very truly said:

"The colonies were regarded not only by us but by every European Power that possessed them, as possessions valuable in proportion to the pecuniary advantage which they brought to the mother country, which, under that order of ideas, was not truly a mother at all, but appeared rather in the light of a GRASPING AND ABSENTEE LANDLORD DESIRING TO TAKE FROM THE TENANTS THE UTMOST RENTS HE COULD EXACT. The colonies were valued and maintained because it was thought that they would be a SOURCE OF PROFIT—OF DIRECT PROFIT—TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY" (a).

And Earl Grey (Colonial Secretary 1846-52) has said:

"In the earliest days of the establishment of British Colonies, it was held that the main advantage to be derived from possessing them consisted in the trade we could carry on with them, and that to secure this advantage it was necessary to make them conform to the policy of the mother-country in all that relates to trade. They were accordingly required to submit for its benefit to severe restrictions on their trade with the rest of the world, which were a great obstacle to their individual prosperity" (b).

Like the ostriches, Canada was surrounded by a fence which prevented her intercourse with the outside world. We were "protected" in order that money might be made by plucking our feathers. And it is now said that for such treatment, we owe some millions of dollars.

It was during this first period that the war of 1812 occurred, and British expenditure upon it is probably one of the chief items in Mr. Borden's four hundred millions. It was a foolish war brought upon us by absurd British assertions. One of them was the inhibi-

(a) *Foreign and Colonial Speeches*, p. 242.

(b) *The Commercial Pol. of the British Colonies*, p. 13. See also vol. 1 of these Papers pp. 33-4.