

found, in such a way as to greatly stimulate the movement we all have at heart. Measures of this kind should be considered immediately. Every step taken in this direction now would fall into line with the larger schemes of preference which we shall certainly see adopted within a measurable time. Preferences are already given by Great Britain in numerous groups of manufactures on which duties are being imposed; but these preferences have not proved of any great value to the Empire hitherto because, for the most part the industries which they affect do not exist.

If and when a country decides to extend its system of import duties to cover other manufactures, then a preference in respect to these commodities would automatically follow to all parts of the Empire. In past controversies the value and importance of this form of preference within the Empire, if given to Great Britain, have been greatly underrated. It is the most valuable scheme that could be adopted. It would lead to great mutual advantages between the Dominions and Great Britain, and would enormously increase their trade. Successful action along these lines means that the people of the United Kingdom must realise that their first duty is the protection of British markets against unfair competition. There cannot be a solution of Imperial problems unless the heart of the Empire is absolutely sound. The duties imposed heretofore would be a fit basis upon which to grant manufacturing preference to the rest of the Empire. There would be no risk to British industry involved in this, while, simultaneously, there would be an inducement given to the other States of the Empire to reach their full stage of development.