

the Colonies remove these restrictions, their exports to the Mother land go up with a bound. Canada reduced her tariff in 1897, and during the following year her exports to the Mother land increased within a fraction of 34%.

The facts and figures adduced point to the following conclusions:

That it is very probable the imposition of preferential duties would check the growth of inter-imperial trade.

That trade between the United Kingdom and her Colonies did actually decrease, both in regard to volume and in proportion to the whole, during the last nine years such duties were in force.

That the abolition of these duties was followed by an immediate expansion of this trade, which has gone on expanding with wonderful rapidity down to the present.

That the slight falling off in the proportion of trade Great Britain does with her Colonies is probably owing to their action in placing restrictions on their own trade.

We may conclude from the foregoing, that the per capita productiveness of the people of the Empire has increased enormously since the abolition of the preferential duties; for the import and export trade of its various parts has increased at a much greater ratio than population, and all the information obtainable on the point indicates, that a vast improvement in the quantity and quality of the commodities consumed by the industrial millions has taken place.