

tainly have nothing of which to complain, for we already find in Britain by far the largest, most natural, and most accessible market which we have. At present she takes 58 per cent. of our total exports, and that without any sacrifice on her part, but simply because she finds it profitable to do so. This is a market capable of still further expansion if we continue to improve the quality of our exports, as indeed we have been doing, and this is surely the only safe basis upon which any country can hope to expand its trade. We have no need, therefore, to clamour that extra burdens shall be laid upon our fellow citizens in Britain for our benefit, especially when these burdens must affect, not the luxuries of the rich but the most elementary necessities of the life and industry of the masses.

Further, it is an entirely uncalled for reflection upon our country and our people to represent the one as capable of attracting settlers and capital only on the precarious basis of a bounty obtained from the British tax-payer; or the other as certain to repudiate the British connection and resign their national independence to another connection, unless the people of Britain bestir themselves to beguile us once more within the leading strings from which we have escaped. The fact is that our own national future, with its many problems and possibilities, is opening out before us with such attractiveness and with such responsibilities that, while it is our obvious policy to maintain good relations with all the world, it would be the height of folly to tie ourselves up under any hard and fast obligation, either commercial or political, for, in view of our constantly changing circumstances, these might prove most embarrassing within a very short time. A country in our