

rem duty on foreign importations over and above the ordinary rates, rather than continue the system of granting a rebate on the duties collected on goods from Great Britain.

There are two additional reasons which should weigh strongly in favor of such a policy. The first of these lies in the consideration that England is not likely to lag behind any of her colonies in generosity, and will not fail to reciprocate Canada's action, giving us the same measure of advantage in English markets that she has obtained in the Dominion. With her present tariff arrangements, England cannot give any preference to her colonies by reducing duties, because she levies none on the products in which they are interested. But it would be easy for her (and she is in the highest degree likely to imitate Canada, in manner and substance, as proposed in this essay), to levy the same rate of duty on all foreign importations. Not only would Canada's action influence her powerfully, but public opinion in England would be entirely favorable to the step, it having become abundantly evident that foreign nations, although enjoying complete freedom of access to English markets, have no intention of conceding a like liberty to the United Kingdom.

The remaining reason why Canada should act in the way suggested is to be found in the necessity of making some response to the very plain hints she has received as regards contributing to the defence of the

Empire. It would seem to be the height of folly to sacrifice any more revenue until this matter had received attention. It was referred to in many of the speeches delivered by the statesmen of the Empire, while the Jubilee was being celebrated, and Mr. Chamberlain, in addressing the Premiers, expressed himself as follows: "We are looking to the colonies still as children, but rapidly approaching manhood. In the lifetime, perhaps, of some of us, we shall see the population doubled, and certainly in the lifetime of our descendants there will be great nations where now there are comparative sparse populations; and to establish in the early days the principle of mutual support, and of a truly Imperial patriotism, is a great thing, of which our colonial statesmen may well be proud. I shall be very glad to hear the views of the Premiers in regard to this question, of any contribution which they think the colonies would be willing to make in order to establish this principle in regard to the naval defence of the Empire." This is a claim for which Canada is at least morally liable, and there is no doubt that it will have to be met sooner or later. It would be both honest and manly on our part if we were to declare our intention of doing so at once, and make an offer to devote the proceeds of the extra duty on foreign goods referred to above as a contribution to a naval defence fund, provided always that all the rest of the Empire, including England, would make their contributions at the same rate and in the same way.

## CHAPTER IX.

### IMPERIAL LEGISLATION

There was point and pungency in the sentence that was spoken on June 11, by the Hon. Mr. Turner, Premier of the Colony of Victoria, at the United Empire League dinner. "Make your offer," said he, "and the colonies will welcome it in no huckstering spirit." This was said to an assemblage of English gentlemen, many of them engaged in business, and all favorable to the establishment of preferential trade with the colonies.

The last phrase in the sentence was evidently intended to recall the celebrated remarks of Mr. Chamberlain in the speech delivered by him a year ago on June 9, at

the third Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, and which are here quoted: "We know how strenuously the colonies cling to their independence, to their own initiative. If they desire, as we desire, and as we believe they do, this closer union—if they are willing to make some sacrifice of their present arrangements and convictions to secure it—let them say so. Let the offer come voluntarily from them, and I believe it will be considered in this country, not in any huckstering spirit, but that it will be entertained as part of a great policy which is intended to unite in the closest bonds of affection and of interest all