

## London Advertiser.

TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY

TELEPHONE CALLS.

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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7.

## What It Means to Canada.

Mr. Chamberlain has at last taken

the public into his confidence and

given the details of his plan for im-

perial preferential trade.

A duty of two shillings per quarter,

which he proposes to put on foreign

grain, is equivalent to about six cents

per bushel. A corresponding tax on

foreign flour is included in his plan.

Great Britain in 1901 imported grain

and flour to the value of £50,985,574, or

in round figures \$300,000,000, of which

wheat represented \$115,000,000. Can-

ada's exports of grain of all kinds to

Great Britain in 1902 were only \$21-

24,889, divided as follows:

Wheat ..... \$15,624,457

Oats ..... 1,401,150

Peas ..... 1,210,560

Barley ..... 172,023

Rye ..... 227,469

Buckwheat ..... 59,094

All other kinds ..... 120,824

Canada's exports of flour and oat-

meal to Great Britain in the same

year were: Flour, \$2,290,655; oatmeal,

\$229,046.

In other words, only about one-

twelfth of Great Britain's purchases of

grain and grain products are from this

country. On the other hand, Great

Britain buys from the United States

\$100,000,000 worth, or more than one-half

her total purchases. A British tariff

preference for Canadian grain and

flour would not doubt help to change

the relative positions of Canada and

the United States in the British mar-

ket.

Mr. Chamberlain's proposals include

also a tax of 5 per cent on foreign meat

and dairy products, not including

bacon. The exclusion of bacon from

the preference is a disappointing fea-

ture, as exports of Canadian bacon

and hams to the United Kingdom are

growing rapidly, having increased from

\$5,312,223 in 1897 to \$12,355,648 last year.

Of fresh beef and mutton, Great Brit-

ain imports \$75,000,000 worth annually,

of which the United States contributes

\$40,000,000 worth, the Argentine Repub-

lic \$16,000,000 and Canada only \$397,754

worth. The development of Canadian

export trade in these lines would, no

doubt, be stimulated by the proposed

preference of 5 per cent.

In cheese Canada has already beaten

all competitors in the British market,

her sales being \$20,000,000, as compared

with \$6,000,000 by the United States. In

butter, we have a great deal of leeway

to make up. Our sales last year to

Great Britain were \$4,529,200, while

Denmark sold \$43,000,000 worth, Russia

\$30,000,000 worth, and Holland \$7,600,000

worth. Of eggs, we sold last year to

Great Britain \$1,601,024 worth while Rus-

sia's sales were \$6,000,000, Denmark's

the same, Germany's \$5,000,000, and

France's \$4,000,000. In all these prod-

ucts Mr. Chamberlain proposes to give

us an advantage of 5 per cent over

foreign rivals. In addition he contem-

plains a substantial preference on col-

onial fruits and wines. Our sales of

fruit to Great Britain last year

amounted to \$1,623,353.

Against these taxes on foreign food-

stuffs, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to

balance large remissions of taxes on

tea, cocoa and coffee. He has figured

out an actual decrease in taxation, and

in the cost of living for the working

classes, as a result of the readjustment

of the tariff on these lines. The de-

ficiency in the revenue, he calculated

will be more than made up by a tax

of 10 per cent on imports of manu-

factured goods.

Mr. Chamberlain's policy has at

least the merit of being clear-cut and

definite. His opponents know precisely

what it is and are in a position to

discuss it critically and intelligently.

The same cannot be said of Mr. Bal-

four's vague plan of retaliatory tariffs,

but there is little doubt that this will

be swallowed up speedily by Mr. Cham-

berlain's larger conception, if the

Unionist party is successful at the

next election.

## The Fallacy of Cheap Labor.

Mr. Chamberlain will not help his

cause with thinking people by employ-

ing such sophisms as "the cheaper la-

bor of our competitors." He has good

fighting ground without trying to en-

trench himself in this worn-out pro-

tectionist fallacy. Cheap labor is the

bogey used to frighten the workmen

in every country into supporting a high

tax system. In the United States, "the

pauper labor of Europe" has been a

catch-phrase in the mouth of politicians

for the best part of a century. The

folly of it is demonstrated by Mr.

Chamberlain himself, when he cites

the United States as one of Great

Britain's most formidable competitors,

and then speaks of cheap la-

bor giving these competitors an eco-

nomic advantage.

Those who talk in this strain fail to

make the distinction between wages

and the cost of labor. The cost of

labor is high or low according as the

employer gets ample or scanty return

for what he pays his laborer. The an-

nouncement that a day's labor can be

bought in one country for ten cents

causes a shudder to go over a lot

of people. They assume that a day's

labor in one place is the economical

equivalent of a day's labor everywhere;

that one man's labor is effective in the

same degree as that of any other. The

truth is that a day's labor is not al-

ways and everywhere the same thing.

Lord Mahon used to say that an Eng-

lish wood-sawyer would do as much

work in the same time as a French

one. In the same time, a French

man would do as much work as an

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