

they will be improved through the independent action of each country, and only so far as each one consults its own interests. Such an improvement will be more natural and more permanent, because free and spontaneous, instead of the precarious outcome of international jockeying, which has never yet produced a stable or wholesome condition of trade. The same remarks apply to any policy of trade relations between Canada and the Mother Country.

The most fatal mistake which Britain could make would be to attempt the restoration of those mechanical and mercenary bonds, under whatever gilded or insinuating disguises they may be presented by Mr. Chamberlain or any one else. It cannot, however, be too strongly emphasised that Canadian attachment to Britain is in no way dependent upon the volume of trade which passes between them. An increase of mutually beneficial trade is certainly to be desired, and no unnecessary obstacles should be put in its way. But how worse than needless must every attempt be to augment Imperial trade on any other than a business basis?

When Mr. Chamberlain seeks to alarm the British people into accepting his proposals, by arousing the apprehension that Canada, and possibly other Colonies, are in danger of being lost unless we reverse what he calls the policy of drift which has permitted Canada to follow her own line of development, he is utterly misrepresenting the attitude of Canadians. We are in no danger of losing our attachment for Britain, unless it be, in some measure, as a result of the reaction from the failure of reckless and misleading promises made by Mr. Chamberlain on behalf of the Mother Country. Canada is misrepresented in Britain, not only as regards the uncertainty of her attachment to the Mother Country, but also as regards what she is prepared to concede to Britain in the way of increased imports of British goods.

A HEARTLESS DECEPTION.

It is quite true that very many Canadians, and among them the official representatives of the manufacturers and numerous boards of trade, have expressed themselves as more or less in favour of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. But this proves nothing as regards the truth of Mr. Chamberlain's representations of Canadian sentiment, in Britain. For it must be understood that, in every case, these expressions of Canadian approval have been made on the basis of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as presented and interpreted in Canada. It is the striking contrast, and, on several essential points, the absolute contradiction between the Canadian and the British interpretation of the same proposals, that constitute the heartless deception of the whole scheme, as regards the masses in Canada and in Britain, who respectively hear only one side of the story.