

British Attack on American Trade

A Prominent New Yorker Writes of Chamberlain's Plan

Editor Independent:

Few people suspect the tremendous revulsion in our industrial affairs that is likely to be the consequence of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals to the British government. This revulsion may occur within a few months, because in a compact empire like Great Britain the constituencies may be consulted and persuaded without loss of time. In the United States, advice from the most influential statesman in the country would primarily reach only a local and limited constituency. In Great Britain it would instantly fly to all parts of the empire. In the United States, a radical change of fiscal policy might, without foreign pressure, take years to accomplish; in Great Britain its realization might merely be a question of days.

In his speech at Glasgow, October 6, Mr. Chamberlain said: "I imagine that nobody is sanguine enough to believe that America, Germany, France or Italy are going to drop the whole of their protective systems because we ask them to do so, or even because we threaten them. What I do hope is that they will reduce their duties, so that worse things may not happen to them." This significant hint is backed up by the following tentative scheme, liable, as time goes on, to be rendered "worse" by a further tightening of the British tariff screw:

1. Corn. A duty of 2s per quarter (equal to six cents per bushel) on importations of foreign unmanufactured breadstuffs, viz: wheat, rye, barley, rice, buckwheat, spelter and oats; all except maize. Breadstuffs from the British colonies to be free.
2. Provisions. A duty of 5 per cent ad valorem on importations of live animals, meats and dairy produce; all except bacon. Colonial produce to be free.
3. Fruits and Wines. A "substantial" duty (not specified) on foreign fruits and wines, with preference to the colonies.
4. Manufactures. An "average" duty of 10 per cent ad valorem on foreign manufactures, including flour, refined oil, leather, lumber, agricultural implements, etc. Colonial manufactures to be free.

For its successful working this scheme necessarily includes similar duties to be imposed by the British colonies; so that the low tariff wall which is to surround the United Kingdom, shall also embrace the colonies and dependencies of that great empire.

For the purpose of determining to what extent this scheme would affect American affairs, an examination has

been made of our export statistics, with the following results: The total value of domestic exports for the year ended June 30, 1903, was about 1,400 millions, of these about 750 millions, or more than one-half, would be affected by the scheme, as appears from the table below.

Exports of domestic commodities from the United States to the United Kingdom and its colonies and dependencies during the fiscal year 1903. Sums in millions of dollars:

	Value
Manufactures liable to a threatened duty of 10 per cent.....	250
Provisions liable to a threatened duty of 5 per cent.....	115
Breadstuffs liable to 6 cents per bushel, 67 million bushels.....	55
Manufactures and other commodities not threatened with duties.....	330

Total to the United Kingdom and colonies 750
From this exhibit it appears that American manufactures to the value of 250 millions a year, and agricultural productions to the value of 170 millions a year are open to be affected by an adverse tariff scheme which is liable to be adopted, if adopted at all, within a few months.

In casting about for a means to avert this attack upon American trade we confess ourselves at a loss to discern any measure that promises prompt relief. We cannot expect the prices of our agricultural produce to be lowered without distressing a class who are already sufficiently pinched by money-lenders, carriers and commission houses. Nor can we expect the prices of our manufactures to be lowered in the face of the constantly increasing demands of labor. Mr. Lewis Nixon, in his recent testimony before the examiner into the affairs of the ship trust said that "within the past year there had occurred an industrial revolution. Labor had changed its conditions. No expert could have foreseen this, a year before. There had been cases wherein vessels half built had required for their completion an expenditure of several times the amount expended upon the first half of their construction." This is true not alone of shipbuilding, but of many branches of manufacture.

Except as to patented articles, we cannot manufacture goods any cheaper than we are now doing, unless taxation (including the 300 millions a year collected under the Dingley tariff) is lowered; and with it, the general cost of living and wages. Between two disagreeable alternatives we shall probably be driven to choose the least. It would appear to follow that our farmers must be prepared to stand a little more pressure; in other words, accept a lower price for their breadstuffs, so as to be able to hold their market against British colonial produce. No concessions are to be expected from patentees, or the producers of monopolized commodities; so that the brunt of Mr. Chamberlain's policy, in case of its adoption, is almost certain to fall upon the farmers and the manufactures which are open to free competition. Of these, the principal ones are as follows:

Value of our principal manufactured exports which are open to competition. Sums in millions of dollars:	Value.
Wheat flour, oatmeal and starch.....	52
Cotton seed oil.....	2
Lumber, doors, sashes, blinds, moldings, furniture and wooden ware.....	17
Spirits of turpentine.....	4
Mineral oil.....	22
Paraffin.....	8
Hides, furs, skins, leather, boots and shoes, etc.....	30
Cars, carriages, automobiles and cycles.....	10
Hard ware, nails, wire, rails, machinery, stoves, engines and structural iron.....	36
Cotton manufactures.....	8
Copper manufactures.....	6
Agricultural implements.....	8
All other manufactures open to free competition.....	15
	216

This means that 216 millions of our exports will either have to lower their prices 10 per cent, or demand 10 per cent more from the British consumer. Whether they can command such an enhancement of price is a very doubtful matter. There are manufacturers in Great Britain to whom 10 per cent would be considered a very fair trade profit.

There are other consequences which are bound to flow from the adoption of Mr. Chamberlain's policy which hardly need pursuing at present. These are its future bearing upon colonial agriculture; the demand for

colonial farm lands; and emigration and the flow of capital to the colonies, instead of to our western states, as heretofore; all of which will doubtless furnish interesting topics for the journalists of the next generation. Our business is with the present and the present outlook is that "protection" to American industry which has served the manufacturers so well in the past, is in danger of losing its usefulness; and that, like our cousins across the water, we, too, will have to consider the advantage of modifying our fiscal policy.

M. L. READ.

New York, N. Y.

The Springfield Republican, in its review of the results of the election in Massachusetts, under the leadership of Garrison since the leadership of George Fred Williams was overthrown and the Kansas City platform repudiated, sums up the whole matter as follows: "The plain fact of the matter is that the reorganized leadership of the democratic party in Massachusetts does not command the confidence of the people and cannot enlist the spirited support of the radical democracy. Where it does not reflect the power of the Hessian element in democratic politics it falls more or less under corporation influence, and the voters of the state do not feel the need of two parties to represent the forces which, for example, have foisted upon this commonwealth a copy of the scandalous New Jersey corporation law for the promotion of 'artistic swindling.' One party of this kind is enough."

The quarrel in the Booth family got beyond the stage of decency when Ballington Booth, his younger brother Herbert, and sister were refused an opportunity to take part in the funeral of their sister. Old General Booth is of the type of the ancient British nobles who could cut off a child with a shilling, or a Roman general who could send his son to prison or death without a pang of conscience. When Old General Booth ordered his son, Ballington, who had done the work of laying the foundations of the army's success, to leave this country because he was becoming too much Americanized, Ballington refused to go, as did his sister and younger brother and established the Volunteers, an organization working along the same lines. It does seem to The Independent that the action of Booth-Tucker and the old general in regard to the funeral services had little of the spirit of Christ in them.

THE VALUE OF CHARCOAL.

Few People Know How Useful it is in Preserving Health and Beauty.

Nearly everybody knows that charcoal is the safest and most efficient disinfectant and purifier in nature, but few realize its value when taken into the human system for the same cleansing purpose.

Charcoal is a remedy that the more you take of it the better; it is not a drug at all, but simply absorbs the gases and impurities always present in the stomach and intestines and carries them out of the system.

Charcoal sweetens the breath after smoking, drinking or after eating onions and other odorous vegetables.

Charcoal effectually clears and improves the complexion, it whitens the teeth and further acts as a natural and eminently safe cathartic.

It absorbs the injurious gases which collect in the stomach and bowels; it disinfects the mouth and throat from the poison of catarrh.

All druggists sell charcoal in one form or another, but probably the best charcoal and the most for the money is in Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges; they are composed of the finest powdered Willow charcoal, and other harmless antiseptics in tablet form or rather in the form of large, pleasant tasting lozenges, the charcoal being mixed with honey.

The daily use of these lozenges will soon tell in a much improved condition of the general health, better complexion, sweeter breath and purer blood, and the beauty of it is, that no possible harm can result from their continued use, but on the contrary, a great benefit.

A Buffalo physician in speaking of the benefits of charcoal, says: "I advise Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges to all patients suffering from gas in the stomach and bowels, and to clear the complexion and purify the breath, mouth and throat; I also believe the liver is greatly benefited by the daily use of them; the cost but 25 cents a box at drug stores, and although in some sense a patent preparation, yet I believe I get more and better charcoal in Stuart's Absorbent Lozenges than in any of the ordinary charcoal tablets."

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HOW CLARK BUYS A BOND

Which Guarantees His Family an Estate, if He Dies, and Himself a Home, if He Lives.

Mr. Clark, aged thirty-five, is manager of the elevator in the town of Salem. The position pays him a good salary, enabling him to support his family and lay aside about \$200 per year. Though he is now living comfortably, he realizes that he must devise some way of providing an income for his declining years.

His idea is to buy a farm. During a period of meditation as to whether or not he shall purchase a certain quarter section of land which is for sale at \$5,000, he is interviewed by a representative of the Old Line Bankers Life Insurance company of Lincoln, Nebraska, who endeavors to interest him in Life Insurance.

Hardly does the agent get well started, when he is interrupted by Mr. Clark who tells him of his intention to buy a farm. He states that he is about to make a small payment on the purchase price and will, if the agent can offer anything better be an interested listener.

"Well," said the agent, "suppose you buy a farm worth \$5,000 by paying the small sum of \$175.25 annually without interest, for twenty years, the contract for same containing a clause specifying that, should you die at any time, the party from whom you buy the land will cancel all deferred payments, and give your estate a clear title; or if you live to the maturity of the contract, give you not only the deed to the land, but pay you as large a percentage of profit as you could reasonably expect to make from the property. Would you buy a farm on those terms?"

Of course Mr. Clark was interested, and since the Company secures each and every contract issued with a deposit of approved securities with the State of Nebraska, he expressed a willingness to become a party to such an agreement.

"Well," continued the agent, "if you will pay annually to the Old Line Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska the sum of \$175.25 they will, if you die at any time, pay to whom you may name the sum of \$5,000. If you live twenty years, they will give you a cash settlement consisting of the guaranteed reserve and an estimated surplus, amounting to \$5,491.25. You will readily see that you receive \$1,986.25 more than you pay in, which is better than four per cent compound interest. Then, too, having the assurance that, should you die, you would leave a comfortable estate." Mr. Clark bought the insurance, and what Mr. Clark did you can do.

Permit our agent to explain a contract to you. If you do not own all the land you care to farm, ask for circular No. 1 which shows "How Jones Bought and Paid for a \$6,000 farm." If you have a mortgaged farm, call for Circular No. 2, which shows "How Samuels Paid a \$2,000 Mortgage."

For further information address the OLD LINE BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Readers of The Independent should examine the advertisements in its columns. It will pay you to read them and take advantage of the bargains offered. Always mention The Independent.

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