What About Empire Free Trade? Will Beaverbrook Carry His Plan?

The Question of Principle is of Equal Importance to that of the Financial Benefit or Otherwise Involved in the Policy

Mr. Remer, M.P., moved the Empire Free Trade resolution in the British House of Commons, but it was talked out. The "Times," commenting on Mr. Remer's remark that "Nothing is impossible," says:—

"But one thing which certainly deserves that title is the amendment by the British Parliament of a Dominion tariff. Here, in the determined and notorious adherence of the Dominion peoples to their tariffs, was the first and greatest obstacle in the way of Empire free trade, and nothing but a campaign far exceeding the limits of these islands could hope to overcome it."

What does the British Empire think of Empire Free Trade? It is a question which has to be answered quite apart from the statistics as to the wisdom of the policy, and this week much prominence has been given to the matter.

"Is there any proof that the Dominions and India are prepared to allow British manufactured goods to enter their ports free and compete against their own growing secondary industries?" asks the Daily Telegraph.

Facts it is Folly to Ignore

"Evidence lies at present the other way. The nationalist spirit of the Dominions and of India is hard set against such a policy. It was Cobden's dream that the Colonies, as they then were, would be content with their primary industries and be glad to send us raw material in exchange for our manufactured goods.

"If the dream was vain then, is the case better now that these industries have been so fostered and developed? There is wealth in raw materials, but in manufactures and secondary industry there is greater wealth and there is also power. If one thing is sure, it is that the Dominions and India are indisposed to look at any proposal which limits or confines their industrial development.

"These are facts which it is folly to ignore, and which cannot be swept away by well-intentioned but uninformed enthusiasm. We say this while cherishing the fullest sympathy with every well-considered movement for the growth of Imperial trade and with a profound belief in the value of that trade to this country."

Mr. Scullin, the Commonwealth Prime Minister, referring to the Empire Free Trade campaign, says:—

"There is no hope in life of getting Australia to agree to allowing the goods of every part of the Empire to enter free, no matter under what labor conditions they are manufactured. No Government pledged to build up secondary as well as primary industries could agree to removing tariff protection. We believe in giving first preference to Australia, and after that preference to Great Britain and to the other Dominions."

"Mr. Scullin, the Australian Prime Minister, has stated in the plainest possible language that Australians are determined to make their own goods in their own country by their own people," comments the Daily Herald.

"The Canadian Manufacturers' Association long ago proclaimed it their unalterable policy, which has been endorsed in action by Canadian Protectionist Governments, that the minimum or so-called 'preferential', tariff on British goods must be high enough to 'afford adequate protection to all Canadian producers.' The Beaverbrook crusade has been most severely handled in the Canadian press.

"The following delicious quotation is from a recent issue of the Daily Province (Vancouver). After pointing out that even the United States, although politically homogeneous and a magnificent economic unit, is finding out that it cannot live to itself alone, it proceeds (under the caption 'Empire Ballyhoo'):

"'It is idle to think that we can cajole the people of Great Britain with the pretty conceit that a tax on foreign beef and wheat will not be in effect a tax on food, and that free beef and wheat from Canada will not actually cost more in Britain, because of such a tax, than it would cost if there were no tax at all.'

"That is Canada's answer to Lord Beaverbrook and it is crushing."

Lord Beaverbrook Quotes the Empire

But Lord Beaverbrook in his speech at Canterbury on Saturday did not shirk this matter, and his evidence in the other direction is quoted in full. Lord Beaverbrook said:—

"The answer I get is, 'Oh, yes, the Dominions won't agree.' That is just a piece of nonsense. I speak first of all of the Dominion of Canada. I know something of that Dominion.

"The Dominion of Canada is as much interested in the economic union of the Empire as Great Britain itself. There is less opposition to the campaign of free trade in Canada than in Great Britain, and there is too much opposition to it, both in Great Britain and in Canada.

"I could develop my argument about Canada, but I would only say this. Mr. R. B. Bennett, leader of the Conservative Party in Canada, visited England in the middle of December.

"Mr. Bennett went back to Canada supporting Empire Free Trade—but—I don't represent to you that he is he went back to Canada, and this is what he said in the Canadian Press—it was reported in every paper in Canada and in a few in England.—

"'I was greatly amazed at the interest which is being shown in Great Britain in the Empire Crusade.

"There is greater interest in Empire trade in Britain to-day than even in the time of Chamberlain. I detected a quite distinct hardening of sentiment in favor of the project.'

"Sometimes I meet with the intolerable suggestion that Great Britain should wait until the Dominion sends a message to us that it wants Free Trade within the Empire.

"When did Great Britain give up the leadership of the Empire? When is Great Britain going to give it up? Not while we can fight the Empire battles.

A View from Australia

"I go to Australia, about which I am told the same story. Ninety-five and a half per cent. of all the export of that Dominion is what might be called primary export—that is, agricultural produce, minerals and metals, timber, and the result of fishing. Obviously, Australia is immensely interested in the market of Great Britain, for here that primary produce finds its sale.

"It is true that Australia has built up considerable manufactures, enterprises that represent only 30 per cent. of the total production of the country.

"But Empire Crusaders do not want to break it down. They do not want to break down production anywhere. They do not want to break it down; they have come to build it up.

"If we have free trade in the Empire, anything that makes for the wealth and development of Australia is good for us.

"I received quite recently a telegram from Australia informing me that Senator Elliott and Mr. John Allen, an ex-Prime Minister of the State of Victoria, were the mover and seconder of a resolution in favor of the policy of Empire Free Trade. They moved it at the Kyabram (Victoria) District Council of the Country Party.

"The Country Party is a very important party in Australia, and these are two very important figures in the Country Party. That resolution will go to the convention of the Country Party for consideration next March, and we shall see if the convention of the Country Party adopts the resolution. I shall wait patiently and hope fully, firmly believing that the Country Party will adopt that resolution.

"Now we come to New Zealand.

"Mr. Cobb, Minister of Industries and Commerce, stated in the House of Commons in New Zealand:—

"I know of no remedy for this state of affairs except free trade within the Empire, and a tariff against foreign that if we get economic unity of the tariff they impose on our exports.

"In an endeavor to set up this economic unit, rest assured we shall get lots of opposition here in Great Britain and plenty of opposition in the Dominions.

"I am not representing for a moment that the Dominions are embracing the plan, but we shall find that if we get economicy unity of Great Britain and all the non-self-governing Crown Colonies and Dominions all bound together in Empire Free Trade, then we can compete with the world."

Whether this evidence is convincing as to the popularity of the Empire Trade campaign readers will judge for themselves.

"The British Empire has survived and grown in the main," asserts the Daily News, "because it has been made so clear that its ideal was that each party in it, however humble, should be left perfectly free to work out its own salvation in its own way. This is the cardinal principle which 'Empire' Free Trade challenges. The one of them, without exception, while challenge was answered long ago by the men who threw the British tea into Boston Harbor."

"We represent only one side," says Reynolds's Illustrated News; "the Dominions represent the other. Each perhaps ready to favor us as against the foreigner, is intent upon building up industries of its own, and is not in the least likely to enter into any scheme—hardly even into any discussion—that will let us have a definite advantage over its own industries."

"Last week's debate on what has come to be called Empire Free Trade showed up the impracticability of that doctrine," states the Sunday Times. "Admirable as it may be in theory, it could never happen. But one good thing the campaign has done is to bring the Empire to the fore in politics.

"The development of Empire trade is fundamental to our future prosperity, and Conservative policy must concentrate on bringing that development about."

"The Adelaide Chamber of Commerce has decided to telegraph to London a request, for the consideration of the coming congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, that the next congress be held in Australia," telegraphs the Times correspondent.

"The Chamber also resolved to inform the congress of its opinion that, since certain Dominions, like Australia, pursued a policy of protection, a scheme of Empire free trade was impracticable. It was desirable instead, the Chamber held, to establish a sincere, gradual, and effective policy of trade reciprocity calculated to widen the market for primary products and, at the same time, make for the prosperity of secondary industries.

"A special committee of the Chamber considered the Empire free trade proposal and expressed its opinion that while such a scheme would be advantageous to all primary producers, it would mean the destruction of Australian industries 'created by an enormous expenditure of private capital and by protection' and also loss of employment for numerous workers."

"Technical developments will modify the conduct of wars, but they will not abolish war, so far as one is able to forecast events."—Admiral von Tirpitz.

"I would rather wear out than rust out." Viscountess Rhondda.

"The most far-reaching phenomenon of our time is the industrialization of women."—Will Durant.

Bacon may have written Shakespeare's plas, but Bill seems to have brought home the bacon.

The Thrilling "Race Horses" of the Northland Try Their Stamina

WHERE DRIVER AND TEAM ARE A UNITE IN SPEED AND COURAGE

Ready for start of first day's racing in Eastern International Dog Derby at Quebec; Emil St. Godard, The Pas champion, prepares for first lap of 41 miles of the 123-mile race.

Amanullah Will Pay Turkey Visit

Report Says Sentiment is Growing in Favor of Return to Throne

Istanbul.—Turkish officials confirmed a report that Amanullah, deposed King of Afghanistan, will start for Angora immediately to interview President Mustapha Kemal. He will remain at Angora for some time as the guest of the Turkish Government, which has put the villa of a deputy in Parliament at his disposal.

The deposed king is expected to return to Istanbul later to join the family of his wife, Suriya, who says that a strong sentiment is growing in Afghanistan favoring his return.

King Amanullah fled Afghanistan after the throne was seized by Bacha Sakao, formerly known as "the waterboy of the north."

Battleships and Naval War

Melvin F. Talbot in the Nineteenth Century (London): (The author is a Lieutenant (S.C.) in the U.S. Navy). Were war actually unthinkable, the high seas could be immediately disarmed, except for the floating police, which would always be needed to prevent the recurrence of piracy and to assure the safety of life and property in lands where local authorities are unable or unwilling to furnish the protection given by every civilized and sovereign State. Such a force might count many regiments of marines, their transport and their train with cruisers in support, but it need include no Rodneys, no Marylands, and no Mitsus. The very existence of battleships, despite the Pact of Paris, presupposes the possibility of war at sea on an extended scale. These great steel forts, the central bastions of naval power, were built to fight, if fight they must, in tremendous battles on vast and lonely seas. Not by their 16-inch salvos can distant trader and missionary be guarded, and long-suffering lands be freed at last from the curse of Haitian bandit, Chinese war lord, or Communist fanatic. Battleships are not the weapons of world order against world chaos, but of nation against nation.

Mail Plane Makes Successful Test

Regina - Winnipeg Route Proves Feasible for Night Flying

Regina. — Three minutes behind schedule the first Western Canada mail 'plane to make a night flight from Winnipeg to Regina, over the beacon lighted aerial trail of 330 miles, landed at Regina airdrome recently.

It was a test flight, and proved the feasibility of the western route as far as the Saskatchewan capital, which is the longest hop of the Prairie mail circuit.

The revolving beacons, placed at emergency fields in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, functioned perfectly, guiding the pilots over Prairie farm lands and cities.

The schedule calls for completion of the flight from Winnipeg to Regina in 3 hours and 20 minutes. Captain G. A. Thompson, of the Western Canada Airways, accompanied by survey pilot P. H. Calder, brought his 'plane to a perfect landing at Regina in 3 hours and 23 minutes.

Picked up by a huge search light, giant Fokker-4, built especially for air mail service, zoomed to earth as flood lights swept the landing field.

This is the first test flight, and commencing March 3 regular service will be maintained between the western cities.

Just What They Wanted

"Yes," said the eminent oculist, "Jones had a curious affliction."

"Really! And what was that?" asked his friend.

"Everything he looked at he saw double," said the former.

The other shook his head sympathetically.

"How sad!" he returned. "I suppose the poor fellow found it hard to obtain employment?"

"Strangely enough, no," said the oculist. "The local gas company snapped him up as soon as they heard of it. He's now reading gas-meters."

Canadian Divorces Reach 816 in '29

Ottawa, Ont.—A record for the number of divorces granted was created in Canada during 1929, when a total of 816 marital bonds were dissolved. This was an increase of thirty-one divorces over the 1928 total.

The report shows an almost steady increase in divorces since 1913, when sixty final decrees were granted. By 1919, the year following the signing of the armistice, the total had jumped to 376.

The fact which throws considerable light on the divorce situation in Canada is found in the marriage and divorce bulletin of the United States Bureau of the Census. The statistics of this publication indicate the surprisingly large extent to which divorces are granted in that country to persons married in Canada.

The bulletin states: "It is possible that many Canadians acquire a residence in the United States for the sole purpose of obtaining divorce, because, in general, divorce laws are more liberal in the United States than in Canada."

Fraser Suggests Stations Use More Power

Montreal.—Canada will not be behind its neighbors to the south in the character and power of its radio broadcasting stations if the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting are carried into effect, A. N. Fraser, chief engineer of the radio branch, Department of Marine, weclared, addresing the Engineering Institute of Canada in Ottawa on "The Development of Radio in Canada.

While many of the original stations in Canada employed transmitters rated at from 50 to 250 watts, there now are several stations equipped with transmitters rated at 5,000 watts, said Mr. Fraser. That these still fall short of the power employed for broadcasting in the nited States was shown in the statement that American stations are employing many broadcast transmitters rated at 50,000 watts.

The Unemployment Problem

London Morning Post (Cons.): No sane man will pretend that any party holds a complete cure in its hands; but there are at least remedial measures. Public economy is one of them; the depleted capital of the country should be carefully husbanded so that it may be applied by our capitalists to productive enterprise. To divert it from the employed to the unemployed as the Government have done, is folly. To use it for extravagant schemes, like building a Channel Tunnel, for example, would be like pouring it down a drain. What money remains should be left to fructify in the hands of the people who are accustomed to use it to the best advantage.

West Indian Sugar

London Times (Ind.): At present the West Indies are producing sugar at an average loss of from £1 to 25s. a ton. If the preference is taken away Lord Olivier calculates that the average rate of loss will be £5 a ton. That, of course, would mean the death of the industry. As it is, the growers in the West Indies are producing and trying to sell their sugar in competition with the growers of other nations who are supported by high tariffs bounties, and subsidies. If they are compelled to give up the unequal struggle they might be able in one or two of the islands to produce other crops for export instead of sugar. But as a general rule they have no alternative.

The Despair of Mr. J. H. Thomas

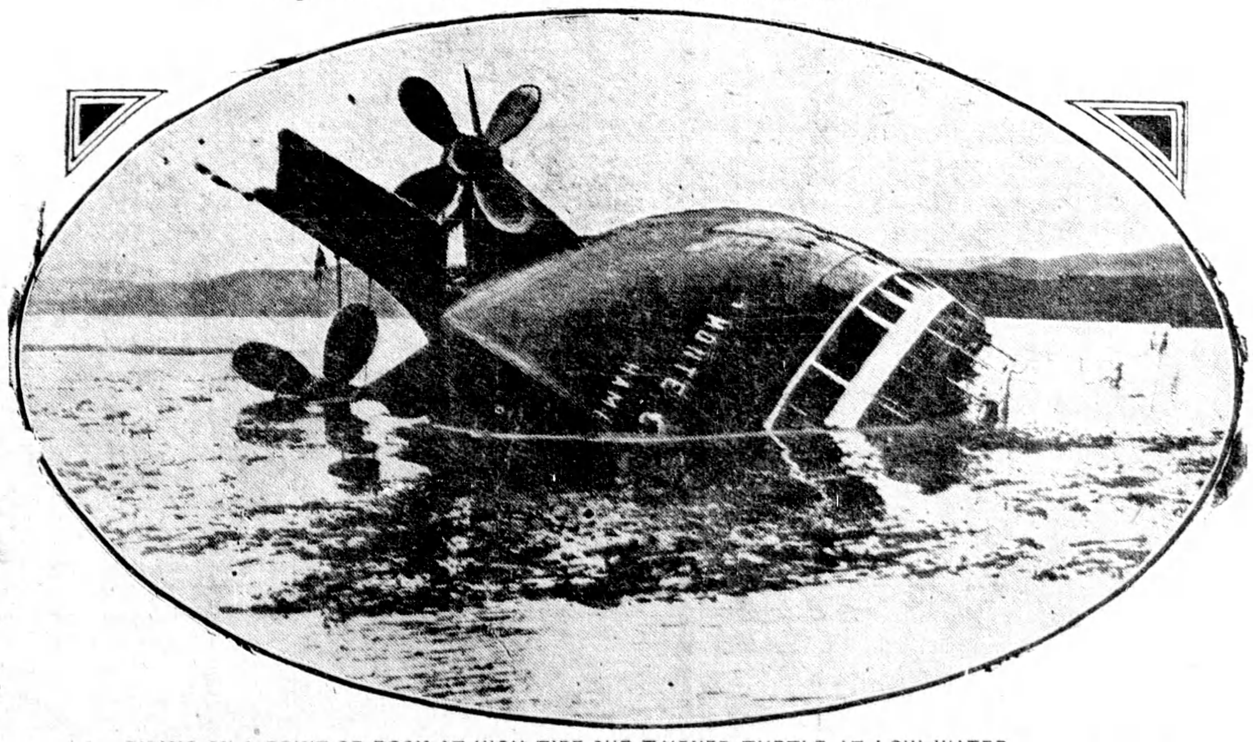
New Statesman (London): It is clear that Mr. Thomas has quite given up the hope of doing anything immediately by way of finding work for the main body of the unemployed. In Mr. Thomas's view, as in that of the permanent civil servants with whom he is chiefly working, there is no short-run remedy or even mitigation. The sole case for unemployment lies in the revival of industry; and that in turn depends in it turn on rationalization. Until we have rationalized our industries, and then recovered our markets, the unemployed must put up with their plight; for, as Mr. Thomas sees it, the provision of work by the State can affect only a small proportion of the whole. But this view does not pass unchallenged.

Indian House to Take Over Radio

Legislative Assembly Decides to Operate Broadcasting for Two Years

New Delhi, India—The standing committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly, with only one dissenting vote, recently agreed to the Government's proposal to take over the Indian Broadcasting Company for at least two years. The annual expenditure is estimated at $100,000 with a carrying charge of $50,000. The state will immediately commence operation of the stations at Calcutta and Bombay, acting with the assistance of a representative advisory committee. The action is made necessary by the company's serious financial position.

Nothing Looks so Sad as a Lost Steamer on the Rocks



RIDING ON A POINT OF ROCK AT HIGH TIDE SHE TURNED TURTLE AT LOW WATER

The German steamer Monte Cervantes, sunk in Beagle canal, off Ushaia, Argentina, after a rock had ripped a huge hole in her bottom making her cargo and hull a total loss.