

Canada having a better market for her commodities will sell these here rather than in England. But how can England take exception to the treaty on this score? Hitherto the States' tariff, by keeping out Canadian foodstuffs, has lowered the price in England to the loss of the Canadian farmer and the benefit of the English consumer. Now, following England's example, the States proposes to admit foodstuffs free, and all that selfish England can rightly do is to return thanks to the States for maintaining its tariff so long. It is just as preposterous to ask Canada to reject an advantageous treaty because the States agreed to remove the duty on foods, as it would be to ask her to levy an export duty on all foods going elsewhere than to Great Britain. That England as a free-trade country has many grounds for complaint, it is hard indeed to see, since the treaty provides that she is to be placed on all lines upon as good a footing as the States, and expressly allows the retention and even increase of British preference. For the last few years England has enjoyed from Canada a preference to the extent of a rebate of one-third of the general tariff—a valuable concession freely given out of pure affection and without any tangible return. But surely Canada may as freely discontinue this concession when she finds it working unfavourably to her, without causing resentment on England's part. And, indeed, the present agreement only affects articles aggregating about 5 per cent. of the trade England has developed under preferential treatment. No; England's real objection to the treaty is not on the grounds of the selfish parrot cry, 'Our food will cost us more.' If it were, Australia should welcome the treaty, since England's loss would be our gain. The question is far wider, and one that must be regarded and judged from the Empire standpoint. Whether America hopes the treaty may ultimately lead to annexation need not be discussed. It is easy to say no other thought is possible, and just as easy to deny this; quotations from American politicians might be given ad lib. But it is beyond all doubt that the treaty is directly aimed by America at Chamberlain's Pan-Imperialism. . . . To-day, the leaven of the Chamberlain propaganda is spread through the whole kingdom. The question, at first regarded rather with the superficial view of protection against Germany, is seen in truer perspective as a definite attempt to co-ordinate the widely scattered Empire into a compact and self-sustaining whole. All Imperialists, of whatever type, regret to see Canada joining with a foreign Power in a compact which must seriously fetter her in any commerce arrangements with Great Britain, and which will moreover give the States a powerful lever of protest against any action in Imperial interests which they may consider prejudicial. Let the States lower her fiscal barriers against Canada by all means. Canada will be glad to have closer trade relations with her, and as in the past, so in the future, her tariff against the States will probably be lower than that operating in the other direction. But Canada must be free to modify her tariff as she chooses, and as the Empire's needs require.

—Weakening Ties.—

Apart from an Empire preference scheme, which is outside of practical politics as long as the Asquith Government is in power, may not the Empire well ask Canada to refrain from making such a treaty unless its benefits to her are overwhelming, on the ground that it must weaken the ties of nationality? Canada's population is growing rapidly by immigrants from both England and the States, who must largely absorb Canadian ideals on entering Canadian territory. But on preference to England being granted, the Englishman though becoming a Canadian could feel that he does not cease to be a Briton; and for this sentimental reason Canada became much more attractive in the home country as a field for emigration. With this treaty Americans will be able to feel similarly that though on Canadian soil they the still members of the United States, whose interests they may still deem paramount. And this is a feeling that at all costs must be impeded and suppressed. . . . Canada in the past has been the heart of the Empire sentiment, and this is only to be expected. With an antagonistic and powerful neighbour close at hand, her various States have been the more closely drawn to one another, whereas in Australia, isolated as it is, the feeling between States is rather one of jealousy. An intimate commercial connection between America and the Canadian States, accompanied by a lesser intercourse between east and west, already differing considerably in blood, religion, and traditions, even though annexation is never thought of, must on the face of it weaken, not Canada's loyalty, but the intense feeling of Imperial unity which caused her to lead the way in offering preference to England's commerce and troops to

her army. Sentimental reasons these may be declared; but who will say that sentiment should have no part in world politics? Not, at any rate, the supporters of this treaty, who maintain that it will tend towards a union of the English-speaking nations of the globe. That consummation is devoutly to be wished, but it must come by a reapproachment of the heads of the two great parties, not by an action such as this, which may be construed in a very ugly form. Certain it is that the States would not as much as consider an agreement of this kind with Great Britain.

—A Grave Danger.—

Apart from sentimental reasons, however, England has good cause to view this treaty with alarm. There is no foe so keen as a former friend. Canada is commercially drawing nearer to the States, but for how long? It is often said that if Canada finds the treaty working unfavourably, she may cancel it at any moment, but this is true only in part. She may reject it now, just as in the past the States have rejected

her overtures again and again, and beyond a little passing resentment no harm is done. But if in five or 10 years time she abrogates it, the position will be very different. The States will be able to point to railways constructed and industries established on the strength of the treaty, and demand its renewal or compensation, with threats of serious reprisals, even by armed force. England's war with China in the forties, attributed to ill-treatment of her merchants, was largely due to the withdrawal of privileges previously allowed, so that the States would not be without precedent, and though actual warfare is improbable, still a state of violent antagonism in America would render England's position in Europe much less secure. If this treaty must result in a closer alliance between England and the States, then, as its supporters say, we should view it with favour, and on the same grounds, realizing that the abrogation of the treaty, possibly rendered imperative from causes not unforeseen, may seriously strain the existing friendly relations, we may legitimately hold that this treaty is a dangerous one. Canada, without America's assistance, has developed amazingly in the last 15 years, and is flourishing in every direction. Surely, as a business proposition, her wisest course is to proceed on the same lines as in the past, confident in her own strength, and backed by the British Empire, rather than by an alliance with a brilliant partner to attempt a speculative short cut to prosperity, and risk she knows not what.

Advertiser, Aug. 15/11.

Elder Conservatorium Concert.

In the Elder Hall on Monday night a concert of Chamber music was given. It was the fifth of the season, and the second at which Chamber music was played. The programme was an interesting one, containing excerpts from the works of Handel, Haydn, and Carey. Miss Muriel Cheek was, as is always the case, vigorously applauded for her delightful singing. The concert opened with a quartet in G minor, Op. 15 (Gabriel Fame), for piano and strings, the performers being—Pianoforte, Mr. Bryceon Treharne; violin, Mr. H. Heinicke; violincello, Mr. Harold S. Parsons and viola, Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas. Each of the four movements was played artistically, and was much appreciated. Miss Cheek followed with (a) Aria, "Ch'io mai vi possa" (Handel), and (b) song, "Chanson de Florian" (Benjamin Godard). Haydn's Quartet in D, No. 8, for strings, was very well received. It was played by the performers on the stringed instruments already mentioned, with Miss Sylvia Whittington as violinist. The next item was supplied by Miss Cheek. The talented young vocalist gave—(a) Aria, "Pur dicesti" (A. Lotti), (b) "A Pastoral" (Carey), and it was not until she had responded to an encore that the last item on the programme—Quintet in F minor, Op. 12 (August Reuss) for piano and strings, was given. The next concert will be given on September 4.

TO THE SOUTH.

DR. MAWSON'S AEROPLANE.

LONDON, August 14.

The tests have been completed of the monoplane constructed for the use of Dr. Mawson's Antarctic Expedition.

Mr. Watkins, who accompanies the party as aviator, believes that the vessel is capable of remaining in the air for five hours with a passenger, as well as the aeronaut, and that it will be able to cover 250 miles of the final dash to the Pole.

Register, Aug. 15/11

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Last week a deputation waited on the Premier (Hon. J. Verran) and asked that the Government should contribute £5,000 towards the cost of Dr. Mawson's expedition to the antarctic—a request which was backed by strong arguments. Cabinet held a special meeting on Monday evening, and decided to grant the sum named.

Advertiser, Aug. 15/11

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

The State Cabinet at its meeting yesterday decided to ask Parliament to vote £5,000 towards the cost of Dr. Douglas Mawson's Antarctic expedition. It is hoped that the Federal Government, and possibly some of the other State Governments, will generously subsidise the expedition, which is expected to do work of the greatest importance to the Commonwealth, to say nothing of the scientific aspect of the matter. There still remains a large sum to be raised before the entire cost is covered, but the action of the South Australian Government has greatly simplified Dr. Mawson's task.

Register, Aug. 14/11

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

The fact that the South Australian Government has decided to recommend Parliament to grant £5,000 towards the expenditure of Dr. Mawson's expedition to the antarctic does not spur the Federal Government to go and do likewise. Mr. Fisher, on being asked whether the question of making a grant would be considered, said:—"That is a matter that must wait until Mr. Batchelor (Minister for External Affairs) comes back." Mr. Batchelor is due in Melbourne next week.—The Melbourne Herald.

Advertiser, August 23.

Miss Clytie Hine, A.R.C.M., who holds the director's exhibition at the Royal College of Music, London, has just been awarded the Lillian Elder scholarship at that institution. The scholarship is for singing and is valued at £60 a year. Miss Hine is a daughter of Mr. W. H. Hine, the well-known Adelaide violinist.