

find a market in Canada. Increased facilities for carriage and correspondence are needed for this purpose.

It may, indeed, be argued that a discrimination against goods, the product of the Mother Country, would be likely to cause serious dissatisfaction in this country. But it was not suggested that there would be much new trade between Australasia and the Cape, and, as will be seen from the Appendix (page 18), the goods which are most likely to be the subjects of interchange between Australasia and Canada, and Canada and the Cape, are not of a nature to interfere seriously with British trade. I consider, therefore, that it will be a consistent and successful policy to recognize the reasonable nature of the request that the self-governing Colonies should have the power, subject to the veto of the Crown, to make such fiscal arrangements with each other as may seem to them most conducive to their commercial prosperity.

Attention may be drawn to the statement made by Sir H. Wrixon, in moving this first resolution, that he did not wish the power of the Colonies to make treaties with foreign countries to be formally recognized, and in this he was supported by Mr. Suttor and Mr. Foster.

Mr. Suttor said: "Undoubtedly some of the leading men in the Australian Colonies have claimed that they should have the power of making treaties direct with a foreign nation. But I do not think that the great body of our public men in Australia would agree to such a proposition as that, because we all feel, so long as we belong to Great Britain, we must make all our appeals to a foreign Power through the proper authorities, and those authorities are the Home Government."

Mr. Foster said: "I am of opinion that, so long as the colonial relation exists, the power to negotiate our own treaties, while we are a part of the Empire, is unreasonable and impossible. I think it would be the death-blow to unity. I am entirely at one, and so are the people of Canada, as well as the Parliament of Canada, with the sentiment that, as we are all parts of one country, and we are under that one Imperial Government, the Imperial Power must negotiate with regard to these treaties; but at the same time we have all the freedom that is necessary and all the voice that we could possibly desire."

Thus no support was given to the idea which has been mooted that power should be given to the Colonial Governments to enter into commercial treaties with foreign powers independently of the Imperial Government, and it is obvious that it stands quite apart from the proposal in favour of intercolonial arrangements.

The resolution itself asks in effect for the repeal of the statutory disability and for commercial reciprocity within the Empire, and the discussion upon it went to some extent over the ground of the commercial relations between Great Britain and her Colonies.

The question was here first raised whether there was any prospect of obtaining preferential terms from Great Britain. The difficulty and even the possible danger of suggesting such a policy to Great Britain was stated by Mr. Forrest, who pointed out that it was just as much the interest of the Colonies to foster and extend the trade of England as to extend their own, and that: "With regard to all other countries, their policy cannot be relied on. To-day they might admit our goods. Then another ministry comes