

from entering into agreements of commercial reciprocity with each other or with Great Britain should be removed." The treaties aimed at by this resolution are the commercial treaties between this country and Germany and Belgium.

38. The particular articles of these treaties which might give rise to difficulties in regard to preferential arrangements between the various portions of the British Empire are as follows:—

#### BELGIUM, ARTICLE XV.

"Articles the produce or manufactures of Belgium shall not be subject in the British Colonies to other or higher duties than those which are or may be imposed upon similar articles of British origin."

"Les produits d'origine ou de manufacture belge ne seront pas grevés dans les colonies britanniques d'autres ou de plus forts droits que ceux qui frappent ou frapperont les produits similaires originaires de la Grand Bretagne."

The English and French texts are both given, as there is a shade of distinction in the translation of the word "British."

#### ZOLLVEREIN (German Empire).

#### ARTICLE VII.

"The stipulations of the preceding Articles I. to VI." (they contain the whole treaty) "shall also be applied to the Colonies and foreign possessions of Her Britannic Majesty. In those Colonies and possessions the produce of the States of the Zollverein shall not be subject to any higher or other import duties than the produce of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of any other country of the like kind; nor shall the exportation from those colonies or possessions to the Zollverein be subject to any higher or other duties than the exportation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

39. It is to be observed that any advantages which might be granted by Great Britain to either Belgium or Germany in virtue of these particular stipulations must also be extended to various other countries under the ordinary most-favoured-nation clauses in existing treaties. If, however, Article XV. of the Belgian Treaty and Article VII. of the Zollverein Treaty were no longer in force, there are no stipulations of a similar character in any other treaty concluded by this country and now in force which could give rise to the same difficulties.

40. The general effect of these stipulations in regard to import duties, as understood by Her Majesty's Government, is stated in the note on page 5 of Lord Jersey's report, as follows:—

- (a.) They do not prevent differential treatment by the United Kingdom in favour of British Colonies.
- (b.) They do not prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of each other.
- (c.) They do prevent differential treatment by British Colonies in favour of the United Kingdom.