

the whole of the taxes were paid by the consumers, instead of by foreigners. I estimate that the Exchequer would lose £2,800,000 a year, and propose to recover it by means of a 10 per cent. tax on foreign manufactures, yielding nine millions, and enabling a further reduction of food and other taxes. I am confident that the colonies will meet us in no spirit of selfishness. In conclusion, Mr Chamberlain, as a missionary of the Empire, implored them to do nothing to disintegrate the Empire, and not to refuse to sacrifice a futile superstition and inept prejudice, thereby losing the results of centuries of noble effort and patriotic endeavour. This peroration was received with wildly enthusiastic applause.

Mr. Asquith, M.P., in a speech at Lancaster, said that retaliation would be futile, and injured most the party who used it. They must fight the tariffs with free imports. Protection was not more advanced than in 1846. It would be impossible to retaliate against Russia and the United States without injuring ourselves. Mr. Asquith ridiculed Mr. Chamberlain's "hysterical dump-phobia." Great Britain's great asset of Empire ought not to be treated as an appendage of the colonies' will. Mr. Chamberlain had said that trade was stagnant. That assertion, he maintained, was based on fallacies. Mr. Chamberlain entirely ignored the Home trade, and the carrying trade had been selected in an abnormal year for comparison.

The statement that the Empire would break up without preferential trade was pure assumption, a calumny upon the colonies and a slur upon the Empire. Protection was inclined to the plane of their beings. There was no halting until the bottom was reached. Unless preference were given to raw materials besides wool and food it would be impossible to establish a logical scheme. To attempt it would be a sure cause of dangerous rivalry.

The German press exhibits the greatest reserve as to Mr Chamberlain's speech, but business men admit that a ten per cent. retaliatory duty would severely hit German industries, and especially if combined with preference to the colonies.

The general trend of South African opinion is strongly favourable to Mr Chamberlain, whose proposals, it is believed, would greatly foster the wine and fruit industries.

The Paris "Journal" declares that Mr Chamberlain's proposals are scarcely in accordance with the entente cordiale.

The "Independence Belge" exhorts Liberals to make a final and determined effort to crush the reactionary forces which have been threatening England for years.

The "New York Journal" considers that a Customs union is impossible, and doubts whether the colonies would be able or willing to concede an adequate recompense for England's sacrifice.

Mr. Bryce, speaking at Lancaster, said that Mr. Chamberlain's case rested upon a tissue of blunders. The edifice was utterly rotten and worthless.

Mr. Gerald Balfour, in a speech at Leeds, said that Great Britain really wanted freer trade and not unalloyed protection.

Mr Chamberlain, in bidding farewell to his colleagues, thanked them for their zealous assistance. He believes that the Colonial Office's service to the Empire was more generally appreciated than formerly.

Mr. Benjamin Kidd, the well-known sociologist and author of the world-famed "Social Evolution," published this morning a powerful letter in the "Times" exposing what he calls "free-trade fallacies" and answering the critics of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme.

The New South Wales railway authorities, in anticipation of a heavy harvest, have provided 1500 additional trucks, 50 engines, and increased the capacity of the grain sheds in the city and country by 800,000 bags.

The Victorian State Governor at the meeting of the Health Society, referring to the general indifference to and ignorance of health matters, said that if as much pains were bestowed on human beings as on racehorses, then in a pure climate like that of Victoria we ought to produce the finest race in the world.

**COLONIAL SUGAR COMPANY.**

The Colonial Sugar Company proposes to increase its capital to three millions by the issue of 44,800 new shares at £20.

**INTER-STATE DUTIES.**

October 6th was the last day on which duties will be collected between the States, except in the case of West Australia, which, under special clause of the Constitution, may impose duties on a gradually diminishing scale for five years. The duties of that State must now be reduced by one-fifth.

**FEDERAL CAPITAL SITE.**

After a lengthy discussion of the representatives on the merits of the various sites suggested, the House proceeded to ballot for the capital site to be inserted in the Federal Sites Bill. The final vote gave—Tumut 36 and Lyndhurst 25. The result was quietly received.

[Tumut is a small post and telegraph town in the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee to the south of New South Wales.]

**A VICTORIAN LOAN.**

The flotation of the Victorian conversion loan is officially announced in London. Bond holders will be offered for a period of about three weeks the choice, firstly, of taking £108 of 3½ per cent. stock, redeemable from 1929 to 1948, for every £100 of existing debentures, the holders retaining the coupon due in January, 1904. The new stock will carry interest from October 1, and will have a sinking fund of 1 per cent.

Alternately, they will be offered 4 per cent. treasury bills, repayable in July, 1906, and 25/ cash, with the option to the holders of bills to convert into £104 of 3½ per cent. stock up to December 31, 1905, with one month's coupon on bills payable on July 1, 1904. It is Messrs. Nivison and Company who have arranged the scheme, and have practically completed the underwriting of the loan. The underwriters' commission is to be 1 per cent.

**To Protect Children from Deafness.**

A plea on behalf of the children with defective hearing is published in the last issue of the "Review of Ear Diseases." The Editor points out the necessity for frequent tests of the hearing, and gives some excellent advice on the care and treatment of the ears, which should be read by all parents who take an interest in their children's future. As this number of the "Review" is intended for public benefit, a free copy can be obtained by addressing the Editor, Drouet Institute, 10, Marble Arch, London, W., England. Another special feature of the "Review" is the enclosure of a Patient's Report Form, for the benefit of those who wish advice, for which no fee is charged, if given by correspondence.

**AUSTRALIA.**

Sir Malcolm McEachern has been elected Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

It is expected that the Federal elections will be held in December.

The finger-print system of identification of criminals is being introduced in New South Wales.

At the Sydney cycling carnival Morgan won the half-mile championship in 1m 20s, and the international mile in 2m 15 2-5s.

A child has died of the plague at Townsville. Infected rats were recently found on the premises in which the patient contracted the disease.

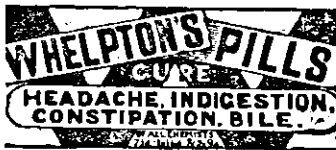
**Sale of Palmerston Buildings.**

Negotiations have been proceeding for some time past for the purchase of the big block known as the Palmerston Buildings, at the corner of Queen and Customs streets, Auckland, and a sale has just been effected by the Bank of New Zealand, the latest owners of the property, to Mr. James Hardie, of Remuera, late of the firm of Porter & Co. The buildings were originally built by Mr. T. Russell. It is not the intention of the new owner to disturb the tenancies of the place. His sons will have quarters in the premises as general agents, under the style of Hardie Bros. The figure is not stated.

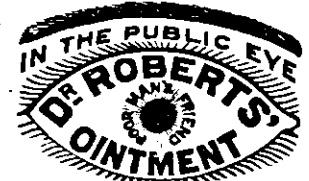
**G. W. ALLSOP, A.R.I.B.A.**  
Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects,  
**ARCHITECT**  
112, VICTORIA ARCADE

**RHEUMATIC GOUT.**

Rheumatism in any form is painful, but for downright torture Rheumatic Gout is about the worst. Rheumatic Gout can be cured. It has been cured by that marvelous medicine Rheumo. Here is the proof. James Gordon, Wellington, writes—"I have been a sufferer from rheumatic gout for a great many years, and was advised to try Rheumo. Its action is amazing. It is quick in relieving the pain and removing the swelling. I shall not be without it in my house." And if you have rheumatism you should not be without it. Sold by all Chemists and Stores at 2/6 and 4/6 per bottle.  
Stocked in Auckland by H. King, Chemist, Queen-st.; J. M. Jefferson, Chemist, Queen-st. and Upper Symonds-st.; J. W. Robinson, Chemist, Parnell; Graves Alkin, Chemist, Queen-st. and sold by all Chemists and Stores, at 2/6 and 4/6 per bottle.



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Mr. Ayson, inspector of fisheries, believes that the cause of the trout scarcity in the Poverty Bay streams is due not to the sheep-dip which gets into the river, but the carelessness of the distribution of the fry. He thinks that the head waters of the rivers should be stocked, and he holds that the East Coast waters are very suitable for trout, instancing Waikaremoana, literally teeming just now with trout.

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