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To suppose that the disruption of the British cabinet forecasts the downfall of Chamberlain and Chamberlainism, is to ignore or misunderstand some of the most significant signs of the times.

While it is altogether probable that at the first general elections everything Chamberlainistic will go by the board, it is just as probable that the return wave will carry back Chamberlain and all he stands for upon its crest.

What is most involved in this ministerial crisis is a realignment of British parties and a readjustment of their issues. Free trade of a limited kind has for two generations been a traditional policy in Great Britain. Both parties have been compelled to adjust their economic differences with reference to free trade standards of the Manchester or British school, much as both parties in this country have been for nearly two generations compelled to adjust theirs with reference to protection standards. That necessity is about passing in England and Chamberlain has had the sagacity to see it.

British sentiment has for some years been ripening toward more radical economic issues. The free trade idea has been developed by radicalism to its logical end as Cobden saw it—the land question. Concurrently, special interests have been turning back upon free trade. A clash between radical free trade and Imperial protection is consequently not far off. This

clash will be felt, though only slightly, in the first elections.

In those elections the official Liberal leaders will stand for the old Manchester idea of free trade limited. They will have the advantage of the support of traditional opinion. The old free traders who are not acting with them will not be acting against them. But active opposition will come from Chamberlain, who will stand uncovered as a protectionist. There is no probability of his making more than a beginning now, but he will have won his place as opposition leader when the Liberals come into power.

The Liberal lease of power will be short. That party is more distracted by internal conflicts over the approaching new alignment of parties than is the Democratic party of the United States. What with Liberals who are inclined to protectionism, those who are traditional free traders, those who are free traders limited, and those who are radical free-and-equal-rights-to-land men, no Liberal ministry can long hold together, especially in the face of the growing protection sentiment among the people, which Chamberlain will lose no opportunity to propagate, and the growing sentiment for radical free trade which the spirit of opposition aided by purposeful agitation will undoubtedly foster. And when the Liberal party goes again to the country, broken and scattered, it will confront a powerful antagonist in the new spirit of protection under the leadership of Chamberlain.

Under these most favorable circumstances Chamberlain would probably come into power at the head of the Imperial protection party. The Liberal party—in fact

if not in name—would repeat the experience of the American Whig party of the early '50s. What form the opposition would take cannot be predicted. Possibly an era of protectionism unopposed would be in store for England, somewhat like that which the United States has experienced since the Civil War. But meanwhile Mr. Chamberlain, for the remainder of his life, would be British premier and practically king. Such, in the rough, is doubtless the outlook in British politics as Mr. Chamberlain views it.

The Ohio campaign (p. 376) is now in full swing, the Republicans having begun their meetings last week. The opening meeting of the Republicans at Chillicothe was an astonishing performance, when the objections of the Republican press and leaders to "Tom Johnson's sensationalism" are considered. Johnson's "sensationalism" consists in using a large tent and speaking to large audiences. He is attended by no bands, by no uniformed clubs, by no glee clubs, by no banners. But the opening meeting of the Republicans was distinguished by every sort of sensationalism known to the political showman. We quote from the Chicago Inter Ocean, a Republican paper:

The Blaine club of Cincinnati, with over 800 uniformed men, had a strong rival to-day in the Ross County Rough Riders, every township in that county being represented by delegations on horseback. The Tippecanoes from Cleveland, the Rail Splitters from Toledo, and the Buckeyes from Columbus ranked next. The Glee club from Columbus had over 100 voices. The decorations were as elaborate as at the recent Ohio centennial celebration at this place, the first capital of the State. The attendance included all the party leaders and officials, with special excursions from all parts of the State.

How does that compare for sensationalism with the quiet entry of Johnson and Clarke into Akron