

And according to Mr. Henry Norman Manchuria is already taking more British goods than our oldest colony, Newfoundland. Now, with two more ports added—Talienwan and Chang-wang-tan—and one at least an ice free-port, with railways constructed from end to end of the country; with the Chinese population so rapidly increasing and opening out new districts; the trade will, if unchecked, increase with compound acceleration. It has indeed been calculated that, if the rate of increase of the last ten years be maintained during the next two decades, in twenty years' time the foreign trade will equal twenty-three millions sterling.

We not only then have rights in Manchuria, but considerable and increasing interests arising out of those rights.

At the beginning of the present year, when Mr. Curzon was speaking in the House of Commons of the necessity of maintaining these rights and interests, the Leader of the Opposition asked if they were threatened. It is well for the nation thoroughly to understand that they are. In 1886, when Mr. James Fulford and I travelled round Manchuria, we did not meet with a single Russian. Practically, the whole