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Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914), born in London, became a successful Birmingham businessman and was Mayor of Birmingham in 1874-76. Standing as a Radical candidate, he was elected to the House of Commons in 1876. He was elected the first president of the National Liberal Federation in 1877. In the second Gladstone Ministry in 1880-85, Chamberlain was President of the Board of Trade and in the third Gladstone Ministry in 1886 he was briefly President of the Local Government Board. He resigned in March 1886 on the issue of Home Rule for Ireland. He became leader of the Liberal Unionists in the House of Commons in 1891 and subsequently drew closer to the leaders of the Conservative Party. When the Conservatives under Lord Salisbury returned to power in 1895, Chamberlain became Secretary of State for the Colonies. He held the office for eight years, resigning in September 1903 so that he could campaign freely for the cause of tariff reform and closer imperial ties. He suffered a stroke in 1906 from which he never fully recovered.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 31 July 1895: colonial paragraph in Queen’s Speech; Suez Canal shares.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 13 Jan. [1896]: loyal telegrams from Australia.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 21 Feb. 1899: approves appointment of Lords Beauchamp and Tennyson as governors of New South Wales and South Australia.


Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 18 Sept.-4 Oct. 1899: negotiations with Germany; connection between Transvaal and Samoa in mind of Emperor.

Australia, 1895-1900
Sir Gerard Smith (Perth) to Chamberlain, Dec. 1895-Feb. 1896: assumption of office as governor; Sir John Forrest; Sir William Robinson; Aborigines Protection Board. (2 letters)

[The rest of the file (17 items) could not be filmed for technical reasons.]

1/4  Fiji, 1897

Sir George O’Brien (Suva) to Chamberlain, 14 Dec. 1897: policy of government through native chiefs; opposes replacement by British officers.

1/5  Pacific Cable Conference, 1896-97

Lord Selborne to Chamberlain, 1896-97: Pacific Cable Conference; conflict between Australian and Canadian representatives; position of Admiralty; Australian representatives on Pacific Cable Committee ‘more than useless; possible successor to Sir Robert Meade. (2 letters)

6/1  Straits Settlements, 1895-98

Sir Charles Mitchell (Singapore) to Chamberlain, 1895-98: changes resulting from federation of Malay native states; appointments. (2 letters)

Sir Frank Swettenham (Selangor) to Chamberlain, 23 July: railway extension in Malay states; meeting of sultans and chiefs; Kelantan.

Chamberlain to Sir Charles Mitchell, 18 Dec. 1895: appointment. (copy)

6/3A  Imperial penny postage, 1897-99

J. Henniker Heaton to Chamberlain, 1897-99: establishment of imperial penny postage; support of Australian premiers; likelihood New Zealand will come into the plan. (7 letters + newspaper cuttings)

6/3B  Agricultural Congress, 1899

Lord Templeton to Chamberlain, 3 Aug. 1899: proposed Imperial Agricultural Congress.

Lord Templeton to Lord Ampthill, 5 Sept. 1899: proposed Imperial Agricultural Congress.

F.A. Fulford (Board of Agriculture) to Lord Ampthill, 23 Aug. 1899: Imperial Agricultural Congress.

6/3C  Anglo-French negotiations, 1895


Sir Robert Meade (Colonial Office) to Chamberlain, 13 Dec. 1895: revision of colonial boundaries; German claims to Samoa.


6/3D  Miscellaneous correspondence, 1895-99
Select:

1. Lord Ashbourne to Chamberlain, 31 July 1895: legal appointments in the colonies.


3. HGB. Publication of tariffs in all countries, including the colonies, 24 June 1897.

4. C.E. Borchgrevink to Chamberlain, 13 Nov. 1897: seeks interview concerning British Antarctic expedition.

5. C.E. Borchgrevink to G.C. Sellar, 16 Nov. 1897: Antarctic expedition.


14. J. Henniker Heaton to Chamberlain, 7 March 1899: declines honour; no honour held in less esteem in Australian colonies; his services.

15. Chamberlain to Lord Hopetoun, 12 July 1895: suggested talk on Hopetoun’s Australian experiences. (copy)

16. Lord Hopetoun to Chamberlain, 2 May 1898: seeks appointment as Governor-General of Canada. (copy)

17. Chamberlain to Lord Hopetoun, 9 May 1898: regrets refusal. (copy)

18. Chamberlain to Lord Hopetoun, 12 March 1900: thanks for note. (copy)

20. Sir Edmund Monson (Paris) to Chamberlain, 2 July 1897: visit of Australian premiers to Paris should be considered social rather than business; Sir John Forrest.


23. Sir John Forrest to Chamberlain, 5 July 1897: has declined to speak in Paris on gold mining industry in Western Australia.

24. Duke of Norfolk to Chamberlain, 10 Jan. 1899: appointment of standing committee to consider landing rights for submarine cables.

28. Lord Onslow (Paris) to Chamberlain, 8 Sept.: suggests shorter terms for Australasian governorships.
Rawson (?) to Chamberlain, 4 Dec. 1896: suggests each colony send a report on measures for protection of colony against invasion for forwarding to Defence Committee.

R. Seddon (London) to Chamberlain, 7 July 1897: thanks for volume of Chamberlain’s foreign and colonial speeches.


Henry Cuthbert (Melbourne) to Chamberlain, 13 Sept. 1897: offer of KCMG; Federal Convention.


Sir Arthur Havelock (Ceylon) to Lord Ripon, 24 June 1895: seeks a vice-regal appointment in a cooler climate, preferably Australia. (copy)


Richard Martin to Chamberlain, 15 Sept. 1899: governor of North Borneo.

Sir Edward Wingfield (Colonial Office). Suggests Hugh Clifford as governor of British North Borneo, 16 Sept. 1899.

Lord Selborne (Puys) to Chamberlain, 10 Sept. 1895: Lord Lamington; his career and suitability as governor of Queensland.


Chamberlain to Lord Salisbury, 20 Jan. 1899: Lord Beauchamp accepts New South Wales; proposes to offer South Australia to Lord Tennyson.


Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 23 April 1899: Hong Kong question; tri-dominion of Samoa would be impossible, to draw lots and divide the islands would be undignified.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 18 Sept. 1899: connection between Transvaal and Samoa; both German Emperor and New Zealand are unreasonable.

Chamberlain to Lord Salisbury, 18 Sept. 1899: Transvaal question more serious than any other; in next half century Germany and France will be ousted from Pacific by forces of Australasia; no objection to yielding to Germany on Samoa.

Chamberlain to Lord Salisbury, 29 Sept. 1899: Tonga should not be given to Germany under any circumstances.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 29 Sept. 1899: discussion with Count [Hatzfeldt] about Samoa.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 4 Oct. 1899: reference to Samoa in Queen’s Speech.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 17 Jan. 1900: Queen’s Speech.

Chamberlain to Lord Salisbury, 22 Jan. 1900: reference to Australian federation in Queen’s Speech; Queen’s comment on name ‘Commonwealth of Australia’.

Lord Salisbury to Chamberlain, 29 Aug. 1900: Queen Victoria’s view on Duke of York going to Australia.

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1900-2

Select:


Chamberlain to Sir Charles Dilke, 21 March 1901: Foreign Office considers that New Hebrides question should be kept quiet for present; sensitivity of French public opinion. (copy)

Sir Arthur Havelock (Algiers) to Chamberlain, 19 Jan. 1901: departure from India; inquires when he should go to Australia.

J. Henniker Heaton to Chamberlain, 26 Oct. 1901: letter from Edmund Barton on penny postage; Australian postal revenues result in a loss.

Colonial affairs, 1900-2
Australia, 1900-2

Correspondence concerning Commonwealth Constitution Bill (1900), governorships, visit of Duke and Duchess of York to Australia, Australian troops in South Africa, governor-general’s allowances; resignation of Lord Hopetoun. Correspondents include Alfred Deakin, Sir John Dodds (Hobart), Sir Arthur Havelock, Lord Hopetoun, Lord Tennyson (Adelaide) and Chamberlain. (60 items)

New Zealand, 1901-2

Correspondence with Lord Ranfurly (Wellington) about honours. (7 items)

Fiji, 1901

1 Sir George O’Brien (Suva) to Chamberlain, 6 May 1901: offer of governorship of British Guiana (incomplete), with reply from Chamberlain.

Straits Settlements, 1902

1 Sir Frank Swettenham (Singapore) to Chamberlain, 15 July 1902: Siamese claims to certain Malay states, with reply from Chamberlain.

JC16 Miscellaneous notebooks and correspondence

4 Miscellaneous letters, 1886-1901

Select:

2 Chamberlain to William St John Brodrick, 26 Dec. 1900: doubts possibility of any great changes in relation of colonies to imperial defence; South African War.

7 Chamberlain to Frederick Fison, 8 Nov. 1895: professorship at Canterbury College, New Zealand.

5 Correspondence with Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, 1895-1900

Select:

8 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to Chamberlain, 2 March 1896: proposed Pacific Cable Conference; no reason for British Government to subsidise cable.

25 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to Chamberlain, 29 May 1899: no justification for a grant to enable artillery volunteers to visit Canada; Pacific cable.

30 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to Chamberlain, 6 Sept. 1900: War Office suggestion of sending troops from British colonies to inauguration of Australian Commonwealth.

31 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to Chamberlain, 10 Sept. 1900: visit of troops to Australia.
Correspondence with Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, 1896-1902

Select:

46 Queen Victoria to Chamberlain, 26 Jan. 1899: appointment of Lords Tennyson and Beauchamp as governors of South Australia and New South Wales.

47 Queen Victoria to Chamberlain, 29 Jan. 1899: Lord Tennyson.

65 Inscriptions for a table and inkstand used by Queen Victoria when giving assent to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Bill, 12 July 1900.

66 Chamberlain to Queen Victoria, 26 July 1900: appointment of state governors in Australia following appointment of governor-general; difficulty of finding men prepared to make pecuniary sacrifice.

67 Duke of York to Chamberlain, 29 July 1900: flag to be presented by Queen to representatives of colonial troops serving in South Africa.

68 Sir Arthur Bigge to Chamberlain, 30 July 1900: appointment of future governors to Australia.

71 Duke of York to Chamberlain, 3 Sept. 1900: approval of Queen for his visit to Australia; regrets she has refused his visit to Canada.

74 Sir Arthur Bigge to Chamberlain, 19 Oct. 1900: Queen declines approval for representative British troops to attend inauguration of Australian Commonwealth.

79 Sir Francis Knollys to Chamberlain, 16 Nov. 1901: Royal titles.

91 Sir Arthur Bigge to Lord Monk Bretton, 1 Jan. 1902: retirement of General George French from command of military forces in New South Wales; Prince of Wales suggests he be knighted.

Overseas trade, 1894-98

Select:

3 Chamberlain to colonial governors, 28 Nov. 1895: seeks information on value of imports into colonies from foreign countries in period 1884-94 and reasons why importers preferred foreign goods to British goods. (circular letter, printed)

4 George Curzon (Foreign Office) to United Empire Trade League, 5 March 1896: commercial treaties between Britain and France and Belgium; effect on trade between Britain and its colonies. (printed)

6 C. Boyle to Charles Ritchie, 30 June 1897: sends memorandum by Sir Robert Giffen on effects of termination of commercial treaties with France and Belgium. (printed)
**JC17 Colonial correspondence, 1901-2**

1  1902 Colonial Conference

   Drafts of proceedings, correspondence, printed memoranda and notes for speeches relating to the 1902 Colonial Conference. They include copies of letters from A.J. Balfour to King Edward VII, letters and notes by Sir Robert Giffen on commercial relations of the Empire, and memoranda by Lord Selborne and William St John Brodrick on imperial defence matters. (13 items)

2  Australia, 1902

   Correspondence of Chamberlain with Lord Hopetoun, Sir John Forrest, Edmund Barton and George Reid. The subjects include naval defence, honours, the South African War, the Pacific islands, land legislation in Australia, and the overseas travels of Barton and Forrest. (9 items)

5  Miscellaneous items, 1902

Select:


**JC18/1-10 Colonial and foreign correspondence and documents, 1903**

3  Australia, 1903

   Correspondence of Chamberlain with Sir John Cockburn, Alfred Deakin, Sir John Forrest and Lord Selborne, as well as telegrams, newspaper cuttings and printed documents. The subjects include imperial trade, an invitation to Chamberlain to visit Australia, the completion of the Coolgardie water supply scheme in Western Australia, politics in Western Australia, South Africa, naval defence, and the labour trade in the Pacific. (18 items)

9  New Zealand, 1903

   Correspondence of Chamberlain with Richard Seddon and William Pember Reeves, referring inter alia to a gift to Chamberlain of New Zealand ferns. (4 items)

**JC18/16-20 Domestic politics, 1903**

16  Cabinet crisis of 1903

Select:
Copies of letters from A.J. Balfour to King Edward VII, notes of a Cabinet meeting (14 Sept. 1903), printed documents, statistics and extracts from letters relating to Chamberlain’s resignation from the Government in September 1903 over the issue of tariff reform.

Fiscal policy, 1903

Select:

Sir Austen Chamberlain to Blanche Dugdale, 4 March 1931: sends memorandum (34pp) on the events of 1903 and origins of the tariff reform movement.


J.L. Garvin to Chamberlain, 26 Nov. 1903: comments on letter of Sir Robert Giffen.

Chamberlain to J.L. Garvin, 27 Nov. 1903: acknowledgment. (copy)


Sir Robert Giffen to Chamberlain, 2 Nov. 1903: exports to colonies compared to exports to foreign countries.

Chamberlain to Sir Robert Giffen, 2 Nov. 1903: acknowledgment. (copy)

Chamberlain to Sir Robert Giffen, 5 Nov. 1903: acknowledgment. (copy)

Sir Robert Giffen to Chamberlain, 8 Dec. 1903.

R.W. Leyland (Liverpool) to Chamberlain, 16 July 1903: bounties given by foreign governments to their mercantile marine.

Chamberlain to R.W. Leyland, July 1903: acknowledgment. (copy)

Bounties for British sailing ships, Shipping Gazette and Lloyds List, 3 June 1902.

Subsidies to British sailing ships, Shipping Gazette and Lloyds List, 2 Aug. 1902.

Liverpool Shipowners Association. French shipping bounties as affecting sailing ships, (11pp + tables)

Sir Herbert Maxwell. Notes on tariff reform movement. (15pp)

Sir Herbert Maxwell to J.L. Garvin, 19 March 1920: beginnings of tariff reform. (copy)

G.F. Renwick to Chamberlain, 24 June 1903: sends letter from W. Farrer Ecroyd on preferential tariffs.

A.J. Balfour. Economic notes on insular free trade. (London, 1903)
135  J. Little. *The Empire in the crucible: trade reciprocity: the Ottawa Conference*. (Bournemouth, 1932)
136  *The Times*. *Precis of sixty-seven articles in The Times since 1885 on preferential tariffs and Empire*. (4pp)
137  United Empire Trade League. *The Empire policy: the British Empire for Britons*.
138  United Empire Trade League. *Liberals to Liberals on the British Commonwealth*.
139  Notice of public meeting to be held on June 10, 1903 at Great Eccleston, addressed by Col. W.H. Foster, Dr Thomas Fisher and W.T. Carter, member of the Australian Parliament. (Poor legibility)
140  ‘American tariffs and American sheep’, speech of Hon. Charles H. Grosvenor of Ohio in the House of Representatives, Friday June 1, 1900.
141  Harold Cox. *Mr Balfour’s pamphlet: a reply*. (London, 1903)

[Reel ends at p. 19]

**Reel M868**

**JC  Joseph Chamberlain Collection (contd.)**

**JC18/16-20 Domestic politics, 1903 (contd.)**

18  Fiscal policy, 1903

Items 135-41, filmed on the previous reel, are duplicated on this reel.

142  Mr Chamberlain’s proposals. (London, Westminster Gazette, 1903) (44pp)

143-44 Proofs of two cartoons on the imperial preference dispute, 1903.

145-55 Newspaper cuttings, including reports of parliamentary proceedings, 1903.

19  Miscellaneous items, 1903

Select:

Extracts from letters from Chamberlain to Lord Selborne, June-Sept. 1903. (typescript copy)

JC19 Colonial papers and miscellaneous correspondence, 1904

1 Australia, 1904

Correspondence of Chamberlain with Lord Northcote (6 letters) and Sir John Forrest. The subjects include the Western Australian water scheme, Federal politics, the visit of Hugh Davies to Britain, free trade and protectionism in Australia, the Conciliation and Arbitration Bill, the formation and fall of the Watson Ministry, State governors, Alfred Deakin, George Reid, Northcote’s reflections on Australian society, and British-Australian relations. (8 items)

6 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1904

Select:

62 Chamberlain to Lord Lansdowne, 24 June 1904: necessity of closer union with the colonies; establishment of Committee of Imperial Defence. (copy)

68 Chamberlain to Saxon Mills, 29 Nov. 1904: imperial preference. (typescript copy)

75 Richard Seddon (Wellington) to Chamberlain, 2 Nov. 1904: preferential tariff; outrage committed by Russian Baltic Fleet.

83 Chamberlain to Sir Frank Swettenham, 3 Nov. 1904: Swettenham’s letter to The Times; imperial preference and Crown colonies; requests a meeting. (typescript copy).

JC20 Colonial papers and miscellaneous correspondence, 1905

1 Australia, 1905

Correspondence of Chamberlain with Lord Northcote (7 letters) and Sir Gerald Strickland (Hobart). The subjects include Imperial relations, the need for an Imperial Council, George Reid, imperial defence, proposals for an Australian squadron, preferential trade, Federal-State relations, Alfred Deakin, a dispute between Sir Josiah Symon and High Court judges, the Naval Agreement, immigration, the formation of the Deakin Ministry, B.R. Wise, and the Premiers Conference. (9 items)

2 South Africa, 1903

Select:

2 Gilbert Parker to Chamberlain, 28 Jan. 1905: preference and South Africa; visit of B.R. Wise to England; likelihood he will be Australian High Commissioner.
Gilbert Parker to A.J. Balfour, 28 Jan. 1905: travels in South Africa; strong interest of South Africans in policy of preference and reciprocity between Britain and the colonies; correspondence with Sir Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin; conversation with B.R. Wise.

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1905

Select:

Sir Herbert Maxwell (?) to Chamberlain, 26 May 1905: deferral of Imperial Conference; A.J. Balfour and tariff reform. (typescript copy)

Parker Smith. Sir Edward Grey’s vote of censure: tariff reform and Imperial Conference, c. 26 May 1905. (typescript and ms.)

Chamberlain to Sir Frank Swettenham, 24 Jan. 1905: suggested discussion on relations with the colonies; limited view of Imperial matters by most colonial leaders. (typescript copy)

Chamberlain to Lord Tennyson, 23 May 1905: tariff and colonies. (typescript extract)

Chamberlain to Lord Tennyson, 24 oct. 1905: tariff reform movement; drawbacks of a uniform tariff; imperial defence. (copy)

Colonial papers and miscellaneous correspondence, 1906

Miscellaneous correspondence, 1906

Select:

Alfred Deakin to Chamberlain, 14 March 1906: Imperial Conference; necessity for unfettered discussion of preferential trade within Empire. (typescript extracts)

Chamberlain to Alfred Deakin, 26 April 1906: defeat of Balfour Government; need for Imperial Conference to set up expert committees to draw up scheme of preferential tariff. (extract)

Chamberlain to Alfred Deakin, 16 May 1906: Imperial Conference. (extract)

Lord Northcote to Chamberlain, 3 May 1906: Imperial Conference; relations with Colonial Office; no information provided on New Hebrides deal with France. (extract)

Chamberlain to Lord Northcote, 29 May 1906: disastrous colonial policy of Liberal Government; threatened interference with self-governing colonies; Imperial Conference; Federal-State relations. (extract)

Lord Northcote to Chamberlain, 2 Oct. 1906: Federal election; need for Deakin-Watson alliance to advance protection; Western Australian secession; relations with Colonial Office.

72 Richard Seddon to Beetham, 15 May 1906: praise of Chamberlain. (extract)

JC22 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1907-14

Select:

75 Sir John Forrest (London) to Chamberlain, 19 May 1911: defeat of referendum in Australia; Imperial Conference; class taxation and socialist ideals.

76 Sir John Forrest to Chamberlain, 16 June 1911: refers to visit to Chamberlain’s home. (extract)

100-8 Correspondence between Chamberlain and Lord Northcote, Feb. 1907-Jan. 1908: Imperial Conference; death of Richard Seddon; Chamberlain’s illness; Alfred Deakin ‘the hero’ of the Imperial Conference; Federal politics; Federal-State relations; ignorance of Colonial Office officials; Deakin’s opinion of British political leaders; preferential trade provisions in Australian budget; weaknesses of Australian Constitution; William Lyne; retirement of J.C. Watson; Andrew Fisher; Northcote’s plans of retirement; appointment of High Commissioner in London; Lord Chelmsford. (9 letters)

152-58 Correspondence and papers concerning the Imperial Fund, June-Aug. 1912, including letters of Chamberlain, George Wyndham, Andrew Bonar Law and Austen Chamberlain. [The aim of the Imperial Fund was to strengthen tariff reform organisation and the cause of imperial preference.]

JC23 Press cuttings and miscellaneous printed articles about Chamberlain

4 Articles about Chamberlain written after 1914.

Select:

12 L.S. Amery. The most favoured nation clause, n.d. (25pp, typescript)

JC24 Materials relating to J.L. Garvin’s The Life of Joseph Chamberlain (1932-52)

4 Miscellaneous notes and letters about Chamberlain

Select:

3 John Reynolds (Hobart) to J.L. Garvin, 7 July 1942: biography of Sir Edmund Barton; sends copy of a letter from Chamberlain.
John Galsworthy Collection

John Galsworthy (1867-1933), novelist, playwright and short story writer, achieved fame as the author of *The Forsyte Saga* (3 vols, 1906-21) and its sequels *A Modern Comedy* (1924-28) and *End of the Chapter* (1931-33). He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1932. He visited Australia, New Zealand and some of the Pacific Islands in 1892-93.

Select:

504  John Galsworthy. Notes on New Zealand, 19 May 1925. (1p)

L. Add  Additional Letters

Alan Strode Campbell Ross (1907-1980) was a lecturer in English at the University of Leeds in 1936-40. He served in the Foreign Office during World War II and then joined the staff of the University of Birmingham. He was Professor of English Language (1948-51) and Professor of Linguistics (1951-74). Among his many publications were *Ginger: a loan-word study* (1952) *The Pitcairnese Language*, with A.W. Moverley (1964).

Select:


807  R.E.P. Dwyer to Ross, 7 May 1946: occurrence of wild ginger in New Britain.

828  A. McKenzie (Apia) to Ross, 28 May 1947: acknowledgment.

859  Howard Hayden (Suva) to Ross, 19 June 1947: Fijian and Hindustani words for ‘ginger’.

862  H. Papy (Papeete) to Ross, 23 May 1947: local names for two species of wild ginger in French Polynesia.

866  G.E. Hard (Abebama) to Ross, 24 July 1947: ginger not grown in Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

1546-1629

Correspondence, word lists and research material of Ross concerning his research on the language and vocabulary of the Pitcairn Islanders, 1956-62. The correspondents include E.H. Flint (Brisbane, 9 letters), F. Percival Ward (Sydney), A. Wotherspoon (Hukerenui, New Zealand), H.E. Maude (Canberra, 8 letters), Donald Marshall (Papeete), J.P. Church (Onerahi, New Zealand), M. mallet (Norfolk Island), L.K. Burch (Papakura, New Zealand), B.E. Parham (Apia), Gordon Williams (Christchurch, 4 letters), James Gray (Christchurch), Eric Partridge (London) and Ralph White (Tahiti).