

that succeeding governments should not be bound by it. I suggest to the government, therefore, that even now it is not too late to insert in this agreement a provision to the effect that at any time during the five year period the treaty may be denounced on six months' or a year's notice. If the agreement is as satisfactory as the government states it is, we shall not need to avail ourselves of this provision. If, on the other hand, it is not satisfactory, such a provision as I have suggested would be most beneficial.

I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, that this recent conference in Ottawa was supposed to be an economic conference. After analyzing the agreements arrived at I often doubt whether it was really an economic conference. The conference was convened, great statesmen of the empire gathered in the midst of the world's greatest economic crisis. International finance is breaking down. Unemployment increases—that great tragedy of men and women willing to work but unable to find work, unable to supply food or shelter for their near and dear ones. The very foundations of our system are rocking and shaking.

In the midst of these conditions the conference was held, and what were its accomplishments? At best, assuming that the government is correct in all its contentions, it succeeded in diverting, shall I say a large volume of trade, to the United Kingdom. But what contribution has it made to the solution of the economic problems facing the world today? Even the currency and the credit problems were consigned to obscurity, as referred to by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie). What message of cheer or hope has that conference brought to the 15,000 families in the city of Toronto who are on city relief? What message of hope or encouragement has it brought for the hundreds of other families that are too proud to ask for city relief and are being supported through other means? What message of hope has this conference brought to the thousands—yes hundreds of thousands—of unemployed, that work will be supplied to them to support their families who are now suffering hunger and despair? Great men were at that conference, great minds, seeking to evolve some remedy for a sorry and distressed world, but what were its accomplishments? I hope I am not too pessimistic; personally I feel greatly disappointed at the results. It should not have been called an economic conference, it should have been termed a trade conference, yes, a

[Mr. Factor.]

political conference built on the foundation of a protective tariff.

I do fervently pray, Mr. Speaker, and it is my fondest hope, that when the world economic conference convenes in the near future it will be more successful than the last imperial conference.

On motion of Mr. Sanderson the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 5.41 p.m.

Thursday, October 27, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

PENSION TRIBUNAL—APPLICATION H. C. PEARSON

Mr. BLAIR:

1. Did the pension tribunal of the Department of Pensions and National Health, notify H. C. Pearson, regimental number 2499907 to come from Syracuse, New York, to appear before the tribunal at Cobourg, Ontario, on the 24th of August, 1932?

2. Did the tribunal sit on that day at Cobourg?

3. Did the tribunal pay the said H. C. Pearson his expenses in coming from Syracuse to Cobourg to attend the sittings of the pension tribunal?

4. What officer was responsible for the notification of H. C. Pearson to appear before the tribunal?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. No. He was informed by the district pensions advocate at Toronto, that his case was listed for hearing on that date.

2. No.

3. No.

4. No officer was responsible for the notification of H. C. Pearson to appear before the pension tribunal, the procedure is for the district pensions advocate to notify an applicant of the date of hearing.

TRENT CANAL—LOCK 22

Mr. BLAIR:

1. Were the plans for the dam or lock twenty-two on the Trent canal approved by the engineers of the Department of Railways and Canals in August, 1929?

2. What is the reason this dam has not been constructed?

Mr. MANION: Plans for a new dam were approved in August, 1929, but temporary