

the colonies and a duty against the rest of the world.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—And no such proposition has ever emanated from hon. gentlemen on that side of the House.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Nor any one else.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The proposition was that there should be free trade between Great Britain and her colonies, and that Great Britain should place a duty upon such articles as we chiefly produce, such as food products, in favour of the colonies against the world. This is the proposition which as I say received favour before this Congress of Chambers of Commerce and was endorsed by the *Times* newspaper. But I will say this: The keynote of that whole discussion—I should not perhaps say the keynote, but the result of that discussion—was that English statesmen took the ground that the proposition should proceed from the colonies.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend will see that proposition would imply that English goods of very kind should be admitted into this country and to every other colony absolutely free from duty, and no one had proposed to accept that proposition here.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It does not imply anything of the kind.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—It says so in effect. Those are the express words. It is not an implication.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I note what my hon. friend has pointed out, but the point I desire to make is that in a discussion of such great importance as this, the man who would commit himself to any particular method and who would take the position that he would not deviate one jot or tittle from that position would manifest his inability to discuss public questions and certainly would show himself entirely divested of any ability of statesmanship.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I do not know that.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—After all this was but a conference. Before any project of so great a character as this could be crystal-

lized into practical form there must be a give and take on the part of those who take part in that discussion. Such a system can only be built up by compromise. Such a system can only be reached by a fusion of the ideas which colonial and imperial statesmen may hold upon this particular subject. It would be folly to say that because certain subjects of this kind are discussed in a congress of this character or at such a congress as we had in Ottawa some years ago, and because those who constitute the congress cannot arrive at some absolutely particular method by which such a system as this can be practically carried out that it therefore must fail. This is precisely the position which the liberal party take in vindicating the attitude of the premier at a meeting of the premiers in London during Jubilee proceedings. Now upon that particular occasion this subject was discussed.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I beg my hon. friend's pardon; does he say any resolution of that kind was carried at that meeting?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I am not prepared to say that. It was afterwards endorsed in the *Times* newspaper. I have not the proceedings so complete as my hon. friend has, but judging from the meagre report I have before me I should judge it was.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I intended to have read the only resolution carried on the subject, but I was rather wearied of reading and stopped. The others were all withdrawn. It was the old resolution of the United Empire League without any meaning to it. That is the only one that was carried.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Be that as it may, when we find a representative of the Imperial government, a representative of the statesmanship and of the influence of the present Colonial Secretary taking the position which he did on that occasion, following that position up consistently since, I say there is every reason to feel a degree of assurance throughout the whole country that if proper statesmanship is brought to bear upon this particular question it can be so crystallized into law as to become a practical commercial system. But if our statesmen will take the attitude that the prime minister of this Dominion did during the late Jubilee proceedings and refuse to discuss it and commit himself unequivocally to the