

were made in those respects our affections for the Empire and for the Throne were deepened. I am satisfied that such will be the result of this Conference, whatever fears some people may possess as to its endangering the Empire itself.

Some of you may have read the banquet speech delivered by Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, one of the representatives of the Irish Free State, during the meeting of the Imperial Conference in London. You all recall the part taken by Lord Birkenhead some years ago in the strife in Ulster, and at that time he was not recognized in any way as a friend of Southern Ireland, but rather treated as one of their outstanding enemies. He presided at this banquet in London, at which other distinguished British public men who had not agreed with the viewpoint of Southern Ireland were present, among them the Earl of Balfour and Sir Austen Chamberlain. I recollect that in that speech Desmond Fitzgerald, who was an enemy of Great Britain only a few years before, paid tribute to the treatment that had been meted out to Southern Ireland by those men who had opposed the agitation for Home Rule. He there confessed that the concession of responsible government to the Irish Free State had brought about a deep regard for the British Empire itself. Since the conference concluded we have had similar views expressed by other leaders of the Irish Free State, particularly by President Cosgrave, and also by General Herzog, the Prime Minister of the Dominion of South Africa.

I doubt very much whether such views would have been expressed prior to the meeting of the Imperial Conference, but their expression following the decisions of the Conference is evidence that the action taken by the Conference has brought about a higher regard for the Empire itself, and a desire on the part of two leaders, who in past times were foes of Great Britain and the British Empire, to remain within that Empire. That being the case, we should not be alarmed in regard to the proceedings of the Conference, or its developments.

In that connection I might quote a sentence that I read only yesterday in a speech delivered by General Hertzog in Cape Town upon his return from the Conference. He declared that its results were not the work of one section or another, but that they had behind them the soul and spirit of the whole British Empire. He said that we should look upon those decisions not as the result of the agitation of a few Dominions, but rather as the outcome of the labours of representatives from all the Dominions, particularly those of the British Government.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN.

The Committee dealing with Inter-Empire Relations had as presiding officer the Earl of Balfour, and he made this statement the other day in regard to the decisions which the Conference had taken:

Equality does not mean separation. The Empire is held together by broad loyalties and common feelings of interest and devotion to the great world ideals of peace and freedom more than anything else. This was the bond of Empire and if it was not enough, nothing else would be. Any difficulty that might arise with regard to the separate entity of each of the self-governing states of the Empire, wherein all were equal, would be overcome in practice just as difficulties had been overcome at Geneva in European affairs.

I am prepared to judge of the results of that Conference from the views expressed by statesmen of such long experience and great prominence in our affairs as the Earl of Balfour.

Now, if I devote my remarks to one paragraph of the Speech more than to another, it will be to that relating to the evidences of prosperity existing in Canada at present. I approach the subject without any party spirit or boastfulness, but with a desire to place before this Chamber, composed of men representative of business and other interests in this country, from possibly a sectional viewpoint, at any rate a Western Canada viewpoint, evidences of prosperity applicable to one very great section of our country.

We naturally look for such evidences to our trade returns, and improvement in the business we are doing with other nations is evidence that Canada is prosperous. We find that within one year there has been an improvement in our export trade of over \$233,000,000. I think that in exports alone, in proportion to population, Canada to-day stands second only to New Zealand in the entire world, and in its total trade, in proportion to population, Canada stands sixth among the nations. It is a notable fact that the increase in our exports since 1913 has been in the neighbourhood of 100 per cent. That is a marked development over the pre-war years, and is proof that Canada is in an era of expanding prosperity.

If this Chamber desired other evidence of our prosperity, one of the most notable achievements has been in connection with the Canadian National Railways. Only a few years ago we were in despair about that project; we were continually hearing of deficits; but now we have reports of surpluses. Four years ago there was reported a surplus of \$3,000,000, but this year we are led to believe that the surplus will be \$45,000,000. That condition could be brought about by