

policy before this conference meets, if he wishes it to be at all successful. And may I ask, is it not humbug? Consider what that proposal means. To understand it one has to consider first what was done at the special session. At the special session the duties were raised against Great Britain; over a wide range they were increased, and part of the preference was done away with. Under the budget which the Liberal administration put into force just before the conference opened the duties had been considerably lowered; the ground had been prepared for a favourable approach to Great Britain. But my right hon. friend took a diametrically opposite attitude; he raised the duties considerably. Then he went to Britain and said, "I will trade with you on a reciprocal basis on this understanding, that the preference is to be given not by reducing existing duties but by raising still higher the duties against other countries." He put duties up to a point where to begin with British goods could not get into this country to any considerable extent, and then said he would not lower these duties. How was Great Britain or how were other parts of the empire to make any arrangement with him in the face of an attitude of that kind?

Since his return from the trip which he took to England to combine health and business my right hon. friend has told us that he is going to get something important in the way of concessions through the wheat quota which is to be arranged. Whether or not this wheat quota will be of advantage to our country is something we can discuss only when we know on what basis it is to be arranged, what the percentages are to be, and so forth. I will not go into a discussion of the advantage or disadvantage of a quota arrangement, but what I want to ask at the moment is this: If there is any good in a quota, if it will be of any advantage to Canada, why did we not have it as a result of the last imperial conference instead of having to wait for the conference to come on July 18? Why did we not have the advantage of a quota at a time when Canada needed everything she could possibly get in order to improve her condition? The answer is this: my right hon. friend's method of approach. The British government were ready to consider the giving of a quota, they were prepared to take it up at the last conference just as they are prepared to take it up at this conference. But what did my right hon. friend say to them? I quote from the report of the proceedings of the conference. The remarks of my right hon. friend in referring to the quota were as follows:

Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Canada as alternatives at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind.

If my right hon. friend is going to proceed in that manner when the imperial conference meets in Canada I cannot see that he will get any further than he did at the last conference. That is why I say he will have to—I hope his ministers and others who are supporting him will see that he does—come around to a changed point of view and a changed method of negotiation. May I repeat that I think he will have to change considerably his policies as well.

As I have said, my right hon. friend's method of beginning negotiations has been to put up the tariff against other parts of the empire. What method of approach has Great Britain adopted since she has come to have a tariff of her own? What is the present attitude of Great Britain towards Canada? She will come to this conference with a tariff of 10 per cent against most articles from other countries. What is the duty as against Canada? Nothing at all. We have the preference of free entry into her market. My right hon. friend says: The basis on which I ask each country to negotiate, the basis on which I am prepared to bargain, is reciprocal. I ask him if he is going to follow Great Britain's example and make his basis one of complete free trade with regard to the goods coming into Canada from Great Britain and other parts of the British Empire—that is, the reciprocal basis so far as the present attitude of Great Britain is concerned—or is he going to maintain his present position, his only concession being to increase still higher the duties against other countries? He is on the horns of a dilemma as long as he holds to that position or once he accepts the British position.

May I draw attention to the fact that in preparing for the last imperial conference the Liberal administration which was in office at the time did precisely the kind of thing in the matter of approach which Great Britain has done in anticipation of the coming conference. We did not put up tariff walls against Great Britain; we did not make demands that we would have our own way or nothing would be done. We lowered our tariff considerably. When we discovered that the nation to the south was not prepared to trade with us as fully and as freely as formerly we then took good care to arrange our tariff so that what we were losing in trade in that direction we would gain in trade with Great Britain. We