

should serve, through cooperation and mutual concessions, in reestablishing prosperity among the nations of the British Commonwealth, and thereby, prove to other nations that people with varied interests can, by good will and undaunted courage, smooth over difficulties, overcome obstacles and arrive at an understanding for the common welfare and interest of the entire world.

I think, sir, that the conference has succeeded in laying the foundation of such an agreement of cooperation and that in the treaties which were signed, the delegates secured reciprocal, adequate and mutual advantages.

We are aware of England's paramount position in the world's trade expansion; her almost complete monopoly, in the past, of coal, her power of purchasing raw materials at low cost, facilitating the supply of her factories and industries giving her the first place among exporting countries of manufactured articles.

These conditions, however, necessitated the withdrawal of her farm hands in order to place them in industries.

Owing to this fact we have seen her depending more and more on other nations for her food, and exporting in exchange her manufactured products.

At the beginning of the present century, other nations having, by degrees adopted protection, England found herself compelled to follow the movement, but having neglected to modernize her manufacturing methods she could not possibly compete on an equal footing with the other world nations which had replaced coal by electricity and oil.

During the period following the war, France, through necessity, modernized her industries; Germany, through the financial aid of the United States and even of England, rebuilt hers to compete with our neighbours to the south, and England forced to meet an ever increasing unemployment and not finding in foreign channels the same opportunities of exporting her manufactured products during the last two or three years and suffering like all other nations from considerable financial losses found it advantageous to seek new fields of activity for her foreign exports.

This trade upheaval created protectionist and labourite movements in England.

From 1921 to 1925, the labour party seemed to favour closer business ties with Russia to the detriment of sister nations; however, owing to the crisis prevailing, in the last two years, England is turning towards the dominions, and has manifested her intention to adopt protection, and as an eminent economist points out:

The dominions look up to England with the feelings of a married son towards his father. Besides, this comparison with the family fits in exactly because it is indeed a question of relations existing between parents and children. The latter proudly uphold their manhood so recently acquired; however the head of the family takes pride in its offsprings and exclaims: I did it all. There does not exist in him those feelings of wounded pride which is met sometimes among older people when younger generations, according to Bossuet's saying, "poussent de l'épaule, leurs devanciers" turn their elders away.

England takes a different view, she truly feels a pride in having achieved a great deed which is hers and remains so, even if on more than one score she has lost the effective leadership. The fiction of imperial unity is, in itself alone, a sufficient advantage to induce her to grant many concessions.

Indeed, during the last century the dominions were ruled by England, where they shipped on advantageous terms raw materials and received the surplus of the mother country's population. By degrees the trade of the dominions expanded. The latter surrounded themselves effectively with tariff walls, as high as necessary and limited the flow of immigrants, and for the last twenty years their exports increased while those of the mother country decreased. England exported more to the colonies and the dominions and the latter captured a larger share of the world's trade.

The basic industries of England, such as coal, iron, steel, cotton and wool were the principal ones to feel the shrinkage in their exports, these industries suffering the most from the unemployment crisis found, within these last years, a wider field in the dominions. Hence England's endeavours to extend the activities of her industries to the dominions and her colonies. On the other hand, the dominions, whose main industry was agricultural, sought, naturally, openings on the English markets. This double aspiration had to be reconciled.

Canada—the Prime Minister of Canada stated last session—must adopt the policy of Macdonald and Tupper and only grant a preference on the basis of mutual preference and mutual advantages.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier turned a new leaf in 1897, by granting a preference to England, with the hope for reciprocal treatment. However, it was not until 1919 that England responded and then, only on unimportant items. To succeed a greater driving power was required.

At the Imperial conference of 1930, the Prime Minister stated:

The primary concern of Canada to-day is profitably to sell its wheat. We wish to establish a better market in Great Britain.