

is no cure for unemployment. One would have felt my hon. friend, at least on the eve of a great economic conference which is to consider matters of trade within the empire, would have thought it desirable on the part of his government, and on the part of this parliament as representing the people of Canada, to have maintained toward Great Britain an attitude of a character calculated to meet a hearty response from the people of the British Isles to such demands as he might reasonably make for the improvement in trade between the two countries. How can he expect to get from the British government or the British people any response in the way of opportunities for increasing our markets in Great Britain when his last step before he leaves Canada is to raise the duties against British goods coming into this country, and his first word when he reaches the British Isles is to announce the extent of the increases which he has made? This is a most extraordinary proceeding on the part of my hon. friend. It may be he has in mind blasting or blazing or bargaining as a result of the steps he has taken, but I would like to repeat to him what I said before that I think he will find those particular methods are of very little avail as within the British Empire itself, and that only through voluntary cooperation and an attitude of friendship and good-will are we likely to achieve much in the way of permanent development of inter-imperial trade.

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May I say this. We heard in a previous election a good deal with respect to "the parting of the ways." We heard something of it in the last election. It was my hope that, as a result of the attitude which the government previously in office took, we would so far as the different parts of the British Empire are concerned discover ourselves at the meeting of the ways, in the matter of inter-imperial trade, when the Imperial conference is held in London, and that Canada's example would be an example which would be followed by all other parts of the British Empire. But I am afraid that the stand which my hon. friend has taken to-day has put us, so far as inter-imperial trade is concerned, not at the meeting of the ways, but I greatly regret to say very much at the parting of the ways so far as the further development of trade within the empire is concerned.

I have covered the situation up to the time when my right hon. friend left for the Imperial conference. I hope I have made clear the line of difference between us—the method which my right hon. friend proposes to take and has taken, the method of blasting, of economic coercion and the method which we would have taken, one of conciliatory approach; an endeavour to create an atmosphere of friendliness with a view to discovering common ground. I believe I have made it clear that my right hon. friend was not fair with the country when he spoke of having a special session for the purpose of relieving unemployment and, on the plea of relieving the necessities of the poor, came to this parliament and enacted legislation which makes wider than ever the gulf between the rich and the poor; the

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gulf between those who have plenty and those who lack many of the necessities of life. I hope I have made it clear that he was equally unfair to this parliament, holding as he did views of the character here described not to have told us of his intentions; also, that by talking of blasting a way into the markets of Britain and by contemplating proposals which could not be entertained, he was taking, before leaving for England, and before the conference was under way, an attitude which he must have known was bound to change the feeling in Britain towards Canada. I believe I have made it clear that before he left Canada at all he had made impossible any success for himself or his party, or for our country, at the Imperial conference.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

### After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, before I refer to the Imperial conference and to the attitude taken by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister at the conference, may I say to him what I have heard him say at different times speaking from the position I now occupy, as leader of the opposition, that nothing could be more embarrassing than the duty which is sometimes placed upon the one who holds this office of saying things which, while unpleasant, must, in the public interest be stated. To me personally it would be much more satisfactory and agreeable to be able to compliment my right hon. friend on the part he had played at the Imperial conference. Indeed when he left I hope I manifested the desire I sought to evince at the time, namely that he might succeed, and I hope that by withholding any comments while he was at the Imperial conference I had made it clear that I wished in no way to embarrass him. Indeed it was my desire to save him from all embarrassment in the matter of attaining what was, according to his own statement, the great and main object that of maintaining and enlarging the market for Canadian wheat in Great Britain.

The Prime Minister must be judged with respect to his action at the Imperial conference by his attitude of approach, by his utterances and by his policies. For a short time this evening I intend to review these three features of his presentation of Canada's case at the Imperial conference. We will judge the outcome of his mission by its results. It is fair to ask: are conditions better