

sitting on the Conservative side of the house, who were elected as a result of that very racial cry, who have subscribed to that very doctrine, to say with regard to this highly to be commended gesture of the hon. member for North Grey to the French-speaking people of Canada?

I wish to address myself now more particularly to the problems that afflict the people of western Canada as a result of the actions of the present government. The thought that is uppermost in the mind of every farmer in western Canada and of everyone dependent upon the farmer is, what can be done to improve conditions? What can be done to get the farmer out of the slough of despond in which he finds himself placed at the present time? Before one suggests a remedy, one must diagnose the disease. One must examine all the circumstances which have led to the farmer finding himself in the position in which he finds himself to-day. I say, Mr. Speaker, that first and last the trouble is due to a false fiscal policy. The countries of the world, with the exception of Great Britain, since the war more particularly, have gone in for a drunken orgy of protection. Great Britain of all countries in the world has refused to listen to the protectionist cry, and what has been the result? During the past three years Great Britain sold \$10,000,000,000 of her own products to protectionist countries, overcoming the disadvantage of high tariff walls by the cheapness and superiority of her goods. The exports of the cotton industry of Lancashire exceeded the combined exports of cotton of the United States, Germany, France, Japan and Czechoslovakia. Great Britain to-day is building over one-half of all the ships constructed in the world. During the first nine months of this year 34 per cent of Great Britain's trade was with Europe, 21 per cent with Asia and 18 per cent with Africa. These facts are the more enlightening when considered in relation to the action of the Prime Minister of Canada both before and at the Imperial conference—before, when he increased the duties against British manufactured goods, and at the conference, when he demanded that the British people impose a tax on foodstuffs in order to give Canada a preference in the British market.

Sir George Paish, the eminent British economist, three years ago wrote an article which exemplifies what I have said with regard to Great Britain and protection. I think it is worth while to put it on Hansard. He says:

Nations dependent upon world markets for the sale of their products are in almost as much danger as nations which must buy foreign products in order to support their peoples.

The agricultural industries of all nations, and more particularly of what are known as the young countries, are heavily in debt, and if they cannot sell their products in anything like the present quantity, and can sell the reduced quantity only at a much lower level of prices, their distress will indeed be great.

But if these agricultural countries will not buy manufactured or other goods in sufficient quantity to enable the manufacturing nations to buy their foodstuffs, raw materials, and tobacco, how can they sell their products?

And if the agriculturists of the world cannot sell their products in sufficient quantity at reasonable prices, how can they buy anything like the quantity of goods they have bought in recent years from the manufacturers of their own countries? They cannot, and in turn, the manufacturers and merchants of all nations will be in difficulties.

Thus, with all the world in debt as never before, the present policy of the nations, of high tariffs and trade restrictions, means a complete breakdown of the great machine of credit and of trade.

But such a policy, and such a situation, cannot be permitted to continue. Its consequences will be so disastrous that not only will the business machine be wrecked, but the political machine as well.

The remedy, and the only effective remedy, for the present dangerous situation is to remove all the artificial tariff and other barriers to trade and to permit the products of the world to be bought and sold without hindrances of any kind.

Experience proves conclusively that a policy of unhampered trade will bring about so great an expansion of income in all countries that the present credit difficulties of nations and individuals will be successfully and permanently surmounted.

Only by reversing the present universal policy of high tariffs, and pursuing without further delay the policy of tariff reduction, so strongly urged by the International Chamber of Commerce and by the great bankers and industrialists of Europe, America and this country, as well as by the Brussels financial conference and by the world economic conference convened by the League of Nations, can the nations overcome the grave danger which now confronts them.

Then we have this statement by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Snowden, in a speech which he delivered at the time of the Imperial economic conference:

Introduction of a tariff system into this country would strike at the purity of the political life of this nation. Parliament would become a sink of corruption. Members of parliament would go there not to represent national interests but pledged to support the selfish interest of particular industries. Once begin a policy of protection and you are on a slippery slope that leads to a bottomless pit.

Following up my argument against the policy of my right hon. friend opposite, I was very much impressed by an article written by a well-known industrialist and published in a businessman's magazine. Undoubtedly the author of this article is intimately known