

to pieces. Here is the heading of a Canadian press cable that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press:

Hold empire unity advanced at Ottawa.
Chamberlain says all danger of break-up of empire set aside.

Neville Chamberlain, is he the son or grandson of Joseph Chamberlain?

An hon MEMBER: A son.

Mr. BROWN: Well, he is certainly running true to the family record. It was my privilege to be in England in 1903 when Joseph Chamberlain advanced his program for imperial preference, and the cry was that the empire was going to pieces unless we were given preference in the British market. I resented that at the time, I have resented it many times since, the implication that our loyalty to the empire depends upon our getting two or three cents a bushel extra for our wheat. Not at all, that is not the bond of empire. The bond of empire is common sentiment, common tradition, the belief that the British empire is the greatest force that the world has seen for bringing about a better era, better conditions in the world at large. These are the things that bind us together. I would like the idea to go forth from this house to Great Britain and throughout the dominions that as far as Canada is concerned at least there was never any danger of breaking away from the empire because two Tory politicians could not agree on matters of tariff.

The Prime Minister undertook to read a lecture to the leader of the opposition because the leader of the opposition questioned the statements made in the speech from the throne in regard to the betterment of conditions. The member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr Woodsworth) has dealt very effectively with that matter, but let me say that when the Prime Minister undertook to justify himself because he felt it obligatory upon him, as he said, "to strengthen the morale of the country," he showed complete inability to see these things from the standpoint of the common man. He can see it from the standpoint of the man in business, the man of big interests, the man who has money to invest, but he cannot see from the standpoint of the man who is almost down and out. It does not strengthen the morale of our farmers in the west or starving people in the cities to tell them that things are getting better. If the Prime Minister understood the psychology of the ordinary individual he would recognize that these statements only irritate men who are struggling against adverse conditions. They resent being told that things are getting

better, that everything is going to be all right in a little while. He should not treat the people of Canada as children. No good cause is advanced by making assertions that every person knows are not warranted. Everyone knows that the assertion that things are on the upturn and are better than they were is entirely unwarranted. It would be well if we would get down to the discussion of things as they are. I commend to the Prime Minister and his followers an article in the last number of Harper's magazine entitled, "Let us Talk About Unpleasant Things". The article is directed against those in the United States who continue to advocate old policies, who still hold that things are all that can be desired and that the betterment is coming. It is pitiful that we should have a man like President Hoover making the address he did make in Iowa the other day, upholding the application of higher tariffs as a remedy for all the ills of man. It is pitiful also that even in Canada we find people insisting that conditions are all that we would like them to be, refusing to face the facts as they are. We do not want this Pollyanna attitude; we want to be treated as reasonable men. We will face the situation courageously and more to the purpose if, instead of flattering ourselves that things are improving and that they are better than they were, we face the facts.

There can be no betterment of conditions, Mr. Speaker, speaking particularly for western Canada, until the farmers are able to get a price for their products that will come somewhere near paying the cost of production; we might as well face that fact. The other day our municipal councillor said that probably they would not get more than ten per cent of the taxes this year. Last year they were able to collect only about thirty per cent, and the year before about seventy-five per cent. What is the use of telling those men that things are getting better? The other day our local doctor said to me, "Last year people needed clothes, but they were able to do without them; they managed to pull through, but this year they must have new clothes." You can make your underclothing last one year longer, but it is pretty difficult to make it last two more years. That is the condition of affairs, and we might as well recognize it. I think we will be well on the way to improvement when we realize the conditions that actually exist.

I said I was going to deal with one specific matter, Mr. Speaker; I had reference to the action of the Department of National Revenue in bringing into operation a regulation discriminating between two classes of business men in connection with repair parts