

enjoy public confidence, and he is continually putting forward his pet panacea of increased tariffs as a means of remedying the ills of the country. Knowing his faith in his patent remedy I marvel that in the course of his remarks to-day he did not speak at greater length on that particular theme. Perhaps he had in mind his somewhat unique procedure of presenting to the public on the eve of the opening of the House a manifesto in the name of his party which sets out his particular remedy for all existing conditions, and may have felt that the manifesto had received sufficient publicity for the present. What I should like to draw to my right hon. friend's attention is that his panacea was before the country in 1921 and met with a very poor welcome at that time. He started his campaign in the month of August, and continued it on into December; at the end of all that time, after telling the country that the one great remedy needed for its ills was increased protection, he was left without a single follower in six of the nine provinces of this Dominion. When parliament assembled he told us that the people had been deceived and that the government did not enjoy public confidence. Since last session six vacancies have given rise to contests in as many constituencies and five out of the six have returned supporters of the present administration. The one remaining constituency, a constituency in which my right hon. friend himself also participated in the campaign, sent his supporter back by a very considerably reduced majority. In view of all this, I should think he would feel that the remedy which he is proposing is not one that the people of this country deem essential at this time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did not think it would be possible that my right hon. friend would be satisfied with the Speech from the Throne. Last session when a number of subjects were enumerated in the Speech he told us that we might better have omitted some of them; to-day when one or two matters are not referred to in specific terms he tells us they ought to have been included. It is apparent that no matter what the government might attempt in that regard, it would be impossible to satisfy my right hon. friend.

However, he did make a reflection upon the Speech from the Throne which I think was scarcely justified, though possibly the reason for it may not be far to discover. He said that he thought the speech was mostly water, and that what there was in substance would be found indigestible. As I listened to my right hon. friend's halting and faltering review

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

of the speech, I could not help thinking that he must be suffering from the indisposition to which he had referred.

My right hon. friend spoke of the Geneva protocol and asked why no reference to it was contained in the speech, why the government had not declared its policy. He made some reference to the effect that the British government had announced its policy in the Speech from the Throne. If I caught his words aright, I would say that my right hon. friend is not correct in that statement. The British and other parliaments of the empire have met recently and so far as I am aware the government of not one of them has announced its policy with respect to the Geneva protocol in its Speech from the Throne; and I presume for the same reason—a reason that I think will appeal to hon. members of this House. As hon. members are aware, the government of Great Britain a short time ago made inquiry of the several governments of the dominions as to whether or not it would be possible for some of their members to be present in England during the spring of this year to discuss the Geneva protocol. On account of the opening of parliament members of the present administration thought it would be inconvenient, if not impossible, to be absent at this time, and so informed His Majesty's government at Westminster. A similar reply, I think, was sent by practically all the other self-governing dominions. The suggestion was made that it should be possible, by means of correspondence between the dominion governments and the government of Great Britain to work out this matter in a manner that would be satisfactory to the empire as a whole. That position was accepted by the British government and we are at the present time in communication with His Majesty's government in Britain and with the other governments of the Empire, but in view of the fact that up to the present, the matter has not been disposed of in any final way, as advisers of His Excellency we thought it desirable and proper that no allusion should be made by him to the subject in the Speech from the Throne. The government will make its position known at the right time, and ample opportunity will be given to hon. members to discuss the protocol in all its bearings.

Now, my right hon. friend referred to a number of matters dealt with in the Speech from the Throne of the present session, and to the Speech from the Throne of last session—I do not know how he overlooked the Speech from the Throne of the year before—I shall not try to follow him in any detail; rather I shall take up the more important