

Mr. STEVENS: I am quite certain that the right hon. gentleman does not mean to misinterpret or misrepresent my statement, but he has not stated it quite clearly. I have stated over and over again, as he very properly said, that in so far as that wide range of articles outside of the schedules mentioned in this agreement is concerned, both the parliament of Canada and the parliament of Great Britain were free to change the articles as they wished, but that unquestionably both governments would consider themselves bound in honour to maintain the undertakings set forth in the agreement, including the schedules attached to the agreement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend limits what he says to being bound in honour. But when people make bargains they are generally bound at law and bound in a way which does not permit of change at the instance of either party. That is the point that I wish to make quite clear. There are other political parties in Great Britain besides the government now in office, and two of them at least, the Liberal party and the Labour party, have declared that if they came into office they would not necessarily regard themselves as in honour bound to carry out any phase of this agreement.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: They have so stated most emphatically, and more than that the Liberal party in Great Britain before the conference was held passed a resolution by the National Liberal Federation to the effect that if the government sought to bind them in their fiscal freedom they would not regard as binding any provision of that kind. So the position of the British government in that particular is perfectly clear. What we are criticizing in this particular schedule is not what the hon. member for West Kootenay would have the house and the country believe, a preference being continued which was granted to us by the British government before the conference took place, but rather the representations of gentlemen like himself who would seek to have the country believe that this is something which the Canadian government were responsible for bringing about at the recent conference and that we should be thankful at this moment for having this particular preference because of the Canadian government's efforts. It was due to nothing of the kind.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. ESLING: The right hon. gentleman is beating about the bush. These agreements go into force tomorrow in the United Kingdom, and lead and zinc from the empire will continue to enter the United Kingdom free of duty. Surely the imposition of a tariff against lead and zinc from non-empire countries was a part of the conference agreement. We all admit that empire lead goes into the United Kingdom at world prices, but lead from outside the empire does not, and must pay a duty of ten per cent. If that is not a satisfactory result from the conference, it is pretty hard to tell what could be. As a result of the conference Canadian lead and zinc will find a larger market than they enjoyed heretofore. Canadian leads and zincs will replace the supplies of Mexico and the United States.

When the right hon. gentleman opposite charges that we stress these particular items under schedule C, I say we have good cause to do so. We lay stress on the advantages contained in schedule C because every hon. member from the province of British Columbia in the Liberal and Labour ranks opposite voted against the ratification of this agreement. Schedule C is part of the agreement. They have recorded their opposition to the benefits contained in schedule C by refusing to ratify the agreement. In other words they have said: "We do not want our Canadian copper to enter the United Kingdom market enjoying a preference of four cents per pound against other copper; we do not want our lead or zinc to enter the United Kingdom free. We do not wish our fish or our lumber to enjoy advantages in the British market." Hon. members opposite do not want anything that would increase or encourage production or industry in the Dominion of Canada. That is the situation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I thank the hon. member for drawing particular attention to lead and zinc. What was the position? Before this conference was called lead and zinc from the dominions enjoyed a preference of ten per cent in the British market. After the conference, and under the agreement now before us the preference is subjected to a condition which did not exist before, namely, that the lead and zinc has to be sold at world prices.

Mr. ESLING: They certainly always had to sell their lead and zinc at world prices. You always had to sell copper at world prices.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No. There was a straight preference of ten per cent.