

prohibitive price and were kept out of the country altogether by this new tax.

I have set forth already this session, at some length, the burdens imposed by the tariff upon the consumers of this country. I propose this afternoon to consider some other aspects of the question, and adduce some further reasons for the desirability of the adoption by this country of a policy, which I believe will be in the interests not only of this country but of the whole world. As Hartley Withers, the editor of the *Economist* says "Finance Ministers and tax collectors have to remember that balancing this year's budget and getting revenue in with the least possible soreness on the part of tax payers, and especially of their own political supporters, is less important than the question whether their measures and methods are tending to increase or hinder the growth of the country's wealth and the world's output of goods."

But before proceeding further on this subject I believe it to be expedient to set forth plainly what I hope for my country and for the world. We should have an objective, known and read by all citizens, to which all may bend their efforts.

I believe in Canada a nation, living in close alliance with the other British Commonwealths, and in amity and friendship with all the world, and above all with the United States. I am opposed both to the idea of a centralizing Imperialism and to that of annexation. I wish to see a national spirit grow up in this country which will be sane and strong and progressive, and as an outward and visible sign of that inward and spiritual grace—for to me national self-reliance is a grace—I would have us not only frame our own tariff, but fly our own flag, on land as well as on sea.

I would have us decide not only our own cases of lesser importance but also those of greater importance. There is no necessity for separation or a slackening of the real bonds that bind us to the other British Commonwealths. What are the real bonds that bind us to the other British Commonwealths? It is not a question of tariffs. It is not a matter of twopence on tea, as Mr. Austen Chamberlain recently proposed in the British House of Commons. What holds us together is the call of the blood, and how that has been exemplified by Scottish people in this country! You know how the Scottish Canadian poet sings:

From the lone shieling on the misty island
Oceans divide us and waste of seas:
But still the heart is true, the heart is
Highland,
And we in dreams behold the Hebrides.

207

Why, my heart warms whenever I hear a man or woman speaking with a strong Scottish accent, and I suppose the Secretary of State feels the same way when he hears a strong English accent. And as for the Irish, I sometimes wish that as people from Ireland come over to this country, the Gulf Stream, when they cross it, would wash away all their memories of the land from which they came, because the Irish in this country seem to give so much attention to the unfortunate troubles that exist in that country. I sometimes wish that they had forgotten all about the unhappy state of things across the seas, but 'he woes of Ireland and the contests there, about which I do not purpose to speak for a moment this afternoon, seem to have as warm and lively a place in the hearts of the Irish here as though they had never left the old sod. The danger is not that we shall not be British enough—Irish, or Scotch or English. The danger is that we are not Canadian enough, and that we do not realize that the greatest interest in this country is the Canadian interest. It is common ideals and common civilization that must keep us together, and not any particular form of government or any particular institution.

I would for my country that having most gallantly shown our power to fight manfully in a war we deemed just and right, we should fight just as manfully, and if anything more strenuously, to prevent a repetition of war. I wish for my country that we should be a great pacific power, prepared to join hands and hearts with all sincere souls wheresoever they may be found, who, in honesty of purpose and purity of heart are prepared to strive for the coming of that day when the sword shall be beaten into the plough-share and the spear into the pruning-hook and when they shall not learn war any more.

I would also for my country that within its confines true liberty, equality and brotherliness should prevail; that we should make national assets and not national liabilities out of our differences of tongue, of race, and of religion; that few large fortunes should be heaped up; but that a high level of general comfort should prevail. I wish not so much for a levelling down as I desire a levelling up.

I believe that this great war was due in no small measure to two great, and as they have worked out evil, principles—the principle of chauvinism or imperialism, and the principle of Protection. They both had their origin in the selfishness of