

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I direct attention to the question I asked the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) a day or two ago and to the minister's reply. I refer to Hansard for April 22:

Mr. Mackenzie King: I would like to ask the minister one question. Could my hon. friend tell us whether the subject of migration and settlement within the British Empire will be one of the matters taken up at the forthcoming Imperial conference?

Hon. W. A. Gordon (Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization): That hardly comes within the scope of this item, but I imagine matters of that character will be discussed, though to what extent or from what angle I am not prepared to indicate at the moment.

Mr. Mackenzie King: As I understand it, then, the minister's reply is to the effect that he imagines this may come up but at the present time he cannot say.

That was the position of the minister who deals with the question of settlement. The question of oversea settlement, immigration, in other words, is to be on the agenda for discussion, and all the minister can tell us is that he imagines it will come up. If that is the position of the ministry with respect to one subject on the agenda, what may we think of its present position with respect to the other subjects? I suppose each minister, if asked, would reply that he imagines the matters in which he is interested will come up, but that he cannot say. Yet we are within three months of the opening of the conference. I say to the Prime Minister that from one end of this country to the other, there is indignation being expressed at the lack of preparation on the part of the government for this important event. It is felt in this city more than anywhere else. There are officials who know that, at the last moment, they will be expected to furnish this and that in the way of information, but not until a day or two ago, when this question came up, were they told anything about what they will be expected to have in the way of preparation.

Mr. CAHAN: Is that statement true?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That statement is true.

Mr. BENNETT: It is absolutely untrue.

Mr. CAHAN: I do not believe it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend may not believe it, but I know in a very direct way that there has been a good deal of complaint that very little has been said.

Mr. CAHAN: I cannot help that, but that statement is utterly untrue.

Mr. BENNETT: Absolutely.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think I have the right from what I have heard to make a statement of the kind, and I repeat it.

Mr. CAHAN: Not an untrue statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Officials in the departments of the government are worrying themselves over the question of how at the last moment they are going to get data which they ought to have been asked to prepare not one or two months ago, but a year ago. If such is not the case, why did not the government make a statement about this matter before?

Mr. CAHAN: The officials have not taken that view.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My information is that the matter has been left pretty largely in the hands of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. I have been told that a committee of that association has been meeting with committees from Great Britain, and, between them, they are trying to see how they can divide up the trade in manufactured articles between Great Britain and this country. I say to hon. gentlemen opposite that the people of Canada are not going to be satisfied with a mere division of interests, so far as the manufacturers are concerned, between Great Britain and Canada as a solution of the trade question as it concerns those parts of the empire. I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to deny that that is the kind of investigation being held at the present time by officials or agents of the manufacturers' association.

Mr. CAHAN: I know what the manufacturer's association is, but I know the statement as applied to them is untrue.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I repeat that, if this conference is the important matter which we know it to be, then the House of Commons should have had at the very beginning some intimation from the government as to what its policies were going to be, and that there should have been long before this an opportunity for discussion of the matters relating to the conference. We were told by the Prime Minister that we would have an opportunity to discuss matters pertaining to the conference when the house in committee was considering the vote for \$250,000 to meet the expenses of the conference. One moment is to be left for the discussion of matters relating to the conference, and yet these matters cover the great questions of tariff, trade and migration. We have thus far had no chance whatever to