

in the smallest advantage to the people of Canada?

An hon. MEMBER: The Halibut treaty.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Somebody suggests the Halibut treaty. There is no Halibut treaty. There would have been, I presume, only for the pride of the then Minister of Marine (Mr. Lapointe), who wanted to see his signature all alone with no British ambassador's name beside it to detract from its glory. But I am told—just to diverge—that there has been a tremendous diplomatic triumph. Forsooth, the British government has been persuaded to consent that after this, in such cases as that of the Halibut treaty, where the concern is mainly and wholly Canadian, the minister may sign alone again. The condition though is this, that if our government will first communicate with the British government and with all the other dominions and find that none of them have any interest in the subject, and if after that the British government consents to the treaty by recommending His Majesty the King to authorize signature, then the Canadian minister's signature can go on and stay on in solitary magnificence. This is the new pinnacle on the autonomy of Canada erected by the Prime Minister in the late conference.

Possibly I should refer to some other efforts, not wholly legislative, to remedy conditions. I am not so sure that the object here was so much to remedy conditions for the country as to remedy conditions for the government; but during the summer we had a repetition of those historic negotiations with hon. members to my left. The former leader of the Progressive party, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar), was in the same manner as before hailed to Ottawa, this time accompanied by the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan. They were brought down amid very considerable publication of manifestoes and the beating of drums. What was going to take place no one knew. The public were warned, but they were held in suspense. Newspapers not in the service of but very loyal to the administration, under trying circumstances, proclaimed through their Ottawa correspondents that a marriage was contemplated—indeed, that the banns were soon to be published. After all it had been ascertained, said the correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, that the demands of the western Progressives were really very small; they did not want nearly as much as was expected, and these two gentlemen were announced as being right on the threshold of the Liberal family mansion ready to take the last step into the

bonds of political matrimony. But no sooner had this dispatch received publication than the whole thing ended. The clouds dispelled. All fears of hon. gentlemen from provinces to the east were proven to be groundless, for did not the hon. member for Marquette publish a statement that he and his colleague were not sent for to consider entering the government at all? Nothing in the way of such negotiation was ever even discussed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why certainly, and the Prime Minister says "Hear, hear." All they were sent for was to ascertain the views of western Canada, on the tariff and other subjects. Well, one would think that the Prime Minister would have known from hon. gentlemen to my left pretty much what the views of western Canada, as represented by them, are on the tariff, and on other subjects too. They have not been wholly silent in this House. But if he was not ready to take the spoken expressions of hon. gentlemen to my left, why did he not have some faith in his own ministers? Was not the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) in western Canada all summer? Indeed, did he not do the work of the Agriculture department out there—travelling to and fro among the people, occasionally delivering speeches, and drawing his salary at the end of the month? I think I have now pretty well completed the gambit of his work as Minister of Agriculture. There he spent the summer, and from the west he returned. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries of that day, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), was there as well. He travelled through the prairie provinces, and there he denounced, no doubt amid applause, the horrors of protection. There by his conduct he invited the Progressive party to come on with an onslaught against the duty on boots and shoes. He delivered himself of his very best in western Canada. He was a missionary to bring the Progressives once more to the side of the government. He too returned and laid his report at the feet of the Prime Minister. But this report and that of the Minister of Agriculture the Prime Minister contemptuously cast aside. Nor was he better satisfied with the words of the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Low), for he pursued the western journey too. He came back and announced to eastern Canada that the West was just revelling in prosperity. He could see nothing there but good times and hear nothing but good news. This report the Prime Minister declined to accept as well. And