

much of what I have been pleading for this night. The question of tariffs need not be interfered with. Let Great Britain remain free if its people desire it so and let Australia and South Africa and the other parts of the Empire preserve their individual systems if they care to; that will not necessarily affect the idea of imperial co-operation.

"In the matter of trade communication between the different parts of the Empire have we all one ought to have? There can be no trouble between protection and free trade along that line. Let us co-operate to make the routes of commerce easier and better than they are. In the matter of cable communication the same thing is true. Is there not an opportunity for co-operation in the matter of Atlantic cable systems?

"Then there is what you may call sympathetic legislation. I was surprised in the course of the sittings I attended in London to see the number of useless hindrances there are to the doing of business between the different parts of the Empire. There is an opportunity to get together and wipe these hindrances out.

#### Preferential Tariffs

"There is the matter of preference. If the British do not like to offer it, well and good. I told them that we offer it; and though they may refuse it, still we offer it. They may get so used to the medicine, even when it goes down a different gullet than their own, that the time may come when they will take it willingly. (Laughter.)

"At this present time, there is not a British country on the face of the globe, with the exception of two or three unimportant rocks in the vicinity of some foreign countries (laughter) which are not now taken into the Canadian brotherhood, and made participators in our British preference. That is a remarkable fact, and I am proud of it. (Applause.) All of them have been invited to send their goods to our markets, and when they come here they get the benefit of the British preference. That has been

accomplished within a comparatively few years. That is progress, and progress in the direction I am endeavoring to indicate as the right direction.

#### Naval Defence

"One word more, and that is on the line of defence. I am thankful, exceedingly thankful, and I do not believe that I do other than echo the feeling of every true British and Canadian subject—when I say that at last the reproof is lifted from Canada that we are doing nothing serviceable towards the defence of the Empire on the sea. You may differ with me as to methods, and each man may have his own views and have them respected by the other in the belief that they are honestly held, but this wide Empire through, no matter what my views are or yours, within this last three months, there has gone a message which relieves Canada from the obloquy of doing nothing for the defence of the Empire. (Loud applause.)

"Too long she lay under that, too long to satisfy her own self-respect, too long to satisfy the wishes and the aspirations of the sister colonies, and to long to satisfy the patient, uncomplaining taxpayer in the United Kingdom. You men here in Canada, with one of the finest countries in the world, with no bars before you that you cannot leap over if you have a purpose to do so, not shut up behind bars and customs and circumstances which take all the hope out of you and leave you a nerveless member of the community; you in Canada who dress well and get good wages, go over to the United Kingdom and watch the British laborer in the mines, in the factory, on the street, wherever you may find him, and see him paying out from his hardly-earned wages for your defence—and not high at that—see him in his true conditions which are liveable, but which I do not think can be compared to the conditions in Canada; watch him for a single month, I say, and then come and look me in the face and tell me honestly if you can <sup>care</sup> you

*in the way of being*

*That*