

the election, and forgetting for the moment that those results are an indication of the popular mind, I should like to point out to the government that a new organization known as the Importers' Association has come into being. This new organization is attempting to do the work of the much maligned Council of Agriculture and the Consumers' League. The only difference is that the Importers' Association is composed of business men who have found their interests seriously affected by the policies of this government. On the other hand, in the Council of Agriculture and Consumers' League there were no members who had any immediate personal advantage to gain, but were giving their energies and spending their money for the public welfare. The purpose of the Importers' Association would seem to be to protect themselves against the vicious practices put into force by the Department of National Revenue.

I shall not undertake to discuss at length the matters referred to in the speech from the throne, but perhaps I might take this opportunity to make a few general remarks concerning the conference and the agreements resulting therefrom. The test to indicate success or failure of the conference depends upon two premises: First, has the conference had the effect of promoting unity and harmony within the empire and increasing inter-imperial trade? Second, has the effect of that conference been to promote international harmony and facilitate international trade? If it has not accomplished both of these things then we must conclude that the conference did not achieve that measure of success it should have achieved. For, Mr. Speaker, the great duty with which statesmen are faced today is to bring about closer and more harmonious relations between the nations of the world, and the one factor which prevents those relations more than anything else is the restriction put upon trade by the various nations. The unfortunate point is that Canada must consider herself as one of the sinners in that connection. Perhaps one would not care to express a positive opinion as to the results of the conference or what the effect of the agreements might be, but I would go so far as to say that I have very grave doubts as to whether or not either of the results I have indicated has been achieved. The Prime Minister is not very convincing when he seeks to leave with us the impression that throughout all its proceedings the conference was a veritable love feast. When two men meet, one holding the point of view that Canada must be first, and the other that Great Britain must be first, when they are seeking

[Mr. Brown.]

not what they can do or what they can give for the well being of the empire, but what they can get for their own national interests, when one party to the controversy insists that the other shall cease to trade with an outside nation, it is not likely that harmony and good-will will reign. The very fact that certain members of the British cabinet have seen fit to resign, holding the view that their delegates were subjected to undue pressure by representatives of the dominions, believing as they do that their freedom of action in regard to their own financial policy has been sacrificed, believing as they do that good-will and harmony among nations cannot be promoted by the agreements that have been made, it is not easy to believe that harmony rather than friction has been the result of the Imperial conference. Of course it may be that the Prime Minister is able to see harmony where no harmony prevails. It was hard for him to admit that the result of the conference of 1930 was to create friction rather than harmony. Even when the Right Hon. Mr. Thomas designated his policy as humbug the Prime Minister could not see that that was an indication of anything but good-will. I was interested to note the published report that the Prime Minister sent a cable to the Right Hon. Mr. Thomas thanking him for the help he had given at the conference. Sometimes I think the Prime Minister is entirely lacking in a sense of humour. The impression made on my mind when I read that statement was that it was simply an endeavour on the part of the Prime Minister to give public notice that he and Mr. Thomas had buried the hatchet.

I have always had very grave doubts as to the possibility of building up a united empire on tariff agreements. I have always had a great deal more faith in what Lord Hailsham referred to somewhat sneeringly a couple of years ago, when he said that there was nothing binding the empire together but the froth of sentiment. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that that froth of sentiment, so-called, is an infinitely stronger bond of union than any tariff agreements that can be made, and when that goes, everything goes. There is not the slightest indication that anything has been done in this conference to strengthen the sentiments that bind us to the mother country and that bind the different dominions of the empire together.

I often think a good deal of nonsense has been talked, both before and after the conference as to the danger of the empire going