

have their heads together in these matters, rather than just a portion of the world, in the absence of such international action, and, indeed, in the presence of mounting restrictions on the part of a great number of these countries, I can only view with a great deal of favour the group action that took place in this city last August. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister of this country for the prominent part he took in that conference and particularly for the concessions that he and those associated with him were successful in securing for agriculture. While the cloud of world depression and existing difficulties may in some measure eclipse, for the present, the true value of his contribution to the development of our commonwealth, I am satisfied that history will write his name down as one who has been largely instrumental in developing and fostering that degree of interdependence and self-help, which among nations of the world, above all, should characterize the dealings of those who claim a common allegiance.

Much has been said by some hon. members opposite as to the undesirability of bargaining taking place at such a conference. I have felt that for too long the nations of the commonwealth have not been taking the fullest advantage of their position and resources. To my mind trade must be based upon something more than sentiment. It must be based upon mutual advantage. In empire politics, we have far too long been talking platitudes. I was exceedingly glad to see that the conference just concluded got down to realities, and on behalf of those I have the honour to represent I would like to express our approval to the Prime Minister, and his colleagues at that conference, particularly in respect to the concessions gained in favour of our great basic industry, agriculture.

Referring to a few of the benefits that an agriculturist should expect of such a conference I would say simply this, that in respect to wheat I am satisfied that the agreement concluded will very greatly extend our market. The wheat producer of Canada in the past three years, in addition to being faced with the downward trend of price levels, has also had to face the competition of Russia, which competition became a factor only in the past three years. What that competition means is best illustrated by the statement that last year Russia exported to the United Kingdom practically as much wheat as did Canada. With the preference that has been granted, and the control of dumping that has been associated with it, I have no doubt that our market in the mother country will be very greatly extended.

In respect to hog products, the quota of 2,500,000 hundred-weight assures for some time an extensive market to the hog producers of Canada for this product. I only hope that our Canadian farmers will respond, so that the fullest advantage may be taken of that quota. In respect to cattle, it is a matter of history that the restrictions which the United Kingdom placed upon our cattle were for some time a source of annoyance. The removal of those restrictions should bring considerable benefits. In regard to miscellaneous farm products such as butter, cheese, eggs, fruit, poultry and tobacco, I cannot help feeling that the result in each case must be that our trade will be extended. As to the wisdom of the concessions Canada has made, I entertain no misgivings. Generally speaking, Canadian industry is favoured with an abundance of cheap power and raw material; I have no fear that our industrial interests will be jeopardized.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to point out that while the United States of America has for some years past enjoyed seventy-five per cent of the available trade of her colonies and protectorates, and while France and Belgium have enjoyed fifty per cent of the available trade of theirs, the United Kingdom has enjoyed only thirty-three per cent of the available trade of hers. I am satisfied that this gap will be closed through the instrumentality of the conference just concluded, and that out of the bridging process which will follow the acceptance of these pacts will flow an extensive measure of benefit to the Canadian people. I therefore beg leave to move, seconded by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Laurin):

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of parliament.

Mr. GEORGES P. LAURIN (Jacques-Cartier) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, on rising to second the motion of the hon. member for Athabaska (Mr. Davies), I feel moved at the thought that not long ago, in this very chamber, His Excellency the Governor General addressed a meeting of eminent statesmen of the British Empire, delegations differing greatly, nevertheless actuated by a set purpose and well prepared to face the intricacies of the problems to be solved: moderate and undaunted protectionists, convinced labourites and well disposed free-traders.

At this gathering of so many distinguished persons with varied aspirations, a chairman of extraordinary diplomatic skill was needed,