

low rates. I wish I had the time to discuss what can be sold even here in the central provinces. I am aware that the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg, being in the fish business, will tell me that we cannot sell anything up here. But I would remind him that in his own line trade with the central provinces has grown not by the hundreds of thousands but by the millions of dollars because of the business ability placed behind the distribution of that particular product. Our Nova Scotia apples, for instance, can be sold in Montreal in competition with apples from any other part of the world. Ontario apples come in there of course, and also Oregon apples. The only requisites are quality and attractive packing; given those, the people will buy any product. We ask to be given a freight rate to enable us to get our products in there. No argument can stand against our success under anything like reasonable conditions. All of these things are vital in the interests of my native province in general and particularly of the part from which I come.

There are three or four other points which I shall not now take the time of the House to deal with, but on some future occasion I propose to place before parliament and the country further important items in the bill of Maritime rights. But while I am on this particular point of transportation—and all these things that I have mentioned are inextricably bound up with it and with the tariff as well—I want to say to my friends to my left that I have something in my hand which I think will interest them. On June 2, of last year the right hon. leader of the opposition moved in the House a resolution. I am not going to read it, but I may direct the attention of hon. gentlemen to my left to clause 4, which I would ask them to give very close study and consideration. It has to do with the preference system. I should like the House not to be carried away by any suggestions that may come from hon. gentlemen opposite that we are against imperial trade. I am interested in the development of the British Empire as a whole. There is no question about that. I am interested in the development of the people in every constituent part of the empire. But I am more interested in the development of the people of this Dominion; I am still more interested in how the people of Nova Scotia are going to stay in confederation and make a living. I am more interested in that than I am in the welfare of constituent portions of the British Empire. They have to take their position

in turn, so far as I am concerned. This is the paragraph I desire to read:

While every effort should be directed toward the establishment of a system of preference for preference within the Empire, no preference should be given at the expense of the Canadian worker, and all preference should be conditional on the use of Canadian ports.

Without attempting to examine that fully to-night, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in Great Britain to-day there is a very marked change of opinion with regard to preference. This applies not only to apples, which is an export of my own constituency, but also to grain. Hon. gentlemen to my left, of course, have maintained their position on the basis of the argument that you cannot ask the consumer in the United Kingdom to tax himself in order that he may eat our wheat. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker that he taxes himself to-day, and in support of this I desire to read for the information of the House the following:

There has been much in your columns lately on the development of Empire trade. The Self-Supporting Empire League, Polebrook House, Golden-square, London, W. 1, has just been formed for this purpose. Well-known people are on the committee, including Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe, Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Lord Willingdon, the Right Hon. J. B. Seely, Sir Archibald Weigall, and Sir George McLaren Brown. The league asks its members to inquire invariably for Empire goods, and if they are as good and as cheap as the foreign product to give our own people preference; if they cannot get them, to report to their local office or, failing one, to the head office.

During the last four years—

And this is the point to which I would direct the attention of my hon. friends:

During the last four years 60 per cent of the wheat imported here came from foreign countries at the rate of 3s. per cwt. more than we pay for the same produce of our own Empire.

In other words, 35 cents a bushel more has been paid by the British consumer for foreign wheat than for wheat grown within the empire.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Will my hon. friend tell me where he gets those figures. They are rather astonishing.

Mr. FOSTER: What I am reading is taken from the London Times. I thought it bore a date, but apparently it has been clipped off. I will be glad to get this information and give it to my hon. friend. The article continues that the loss in these four years was thirty million pounds—close to \$150,000,000. I ask hon. gentlemen if it is not a proper time, if we are going to have a royal commission at all, to have it sit with