

cluded the shipment of any of these metalliferous products to the United States. They did that, not from any desire to retaliate against us for something that we had done, but because the lumbermen and the miners of the United States had said that they must have the United States market for American producers. So we are now out of the United States market except for our wheat which we send over there under a tariff of 42 cents a bushel, and our wheat is used to raise the grade of their flour, which is then shipped and sold in the markets of the world in competition with Canadian flour and when exported a 99 per cent rebate of the duty is allowed. I may say that the privilege is very much abused.

The vociferous member who has just taken his seat (Mr. McPhee) did not tell us how much wheat we shipped into the United States under that tariff of 42 cents a bushel. We did ship a large quantity there, and he includes that as among shipments to foreign countries when it was actually shipped to the United States to raise the grade of their flour to beat us in the markets of the world. What can we ship to France today with its embargo tariff on wheat? It is impossible for us to ship our wheat there. The wheat question is a very, very serious one, and I wish someone in this chamber knew the answer to it. No wheat farmer in Canada can succeed with wheat at 28 cents a bushel. You can give them their old fetish, free trade, or tariff for revenue, or take the tariff off entirely, and they cannot succeed with wheat at 28 cents a bushel. Therefore something must be done. What can be done? We do not know. The Imperial conference which sat at Ottawa I believe did the best that could possibly be done. It at least assured us of a market in Great Britain, although not assuring us of any stated price for our wheat. It would have been impossible for it to do that. When the terms of these agreements which have been entered into between the different dominions of the British Empire, which comprise one-fourth of the world's population, are given a chance to succeed, as I believe they will, an impetus will be given to world trade generally, and as times become better the price of wheat will improve, and there will then be some chance for our western farmers. At the present time their plight is appalling. We are going to succeed. We will pull through, but we will require the services of the best brains in this country and in the empire.

We know how near to disaster Great Britain was when she went off the gold standard; we

[Mr. Dickie.]

know, further, that throughout the world times are bad. We know that one of the greatest reasons for present economic distress is the burden of debt under which the world is struggling. I do not know how the world will pay its debts. We in Canada have held our heads high; we have met every obligation, and by so doing are honoured throughout the world. Had England adopted the policy of that ungodly country known as Russia and repudiated all her debts, there would be prosperity in the British Empire.

We are playing the game; we are playing it fair and laying our cards on the table. When we enter into treaties with British dominions or with the mother country, what is not said is just as important as what is said. We will play the game with each other; that is the foundation upon which we shall build a superstructure which will enure to the advantage and benefit of the whole British empire.

We have heard many statements made on behalf of that old man of the sea, free trade. What would have happened to this country if during the depression we had had a policy of free trade?

Mr. YOUNG: Better times.

Mr. DICKIE: Every manufacturer in Canada would have gone out of business; our country would have been flooded with products dumped from Czechoslovakia and other countries. Before I left the west I noticed some pottery from the country I have mentioned, and I wondered how freight could be paid and the price remain so small. The articles to which I am referring sold at little or nothing. We cannot compete with people in that country, nor can we compete with the people of Germany or France, because we have a higher standard of living and better wage scales than obtain in those countries. We are trying to maintain our higher standard, and I believe we shall be able to do so.

We talk about blazing our way into the markets of the world. The only way we can do so is to show that the British Empire is self-contained and deal within the empire, just as the American states deal within themselves. By so doing eventually we will get back on solid ground. Free trade is a lost cause throughout the world. If theoretically it is correct—and I am not making that admission—certainly it is not practicable and could not be economically sound in a little country of only 9,000,000 people lying adjacent to another country with a population of over 120,000,000 operating under a protective tariff. We know what has happened in the past. The American