

retain every vestige of their liberty, assisted by Mr. Asquith's view of local autonomy expressed in 1911, as absolutely unfettered and complete, with loyalty to the common head, and with spontaneous and unforced cooperation for common interests and purposes. The dominion prime ministers carefully guarded the independence which they had won, and gradually they obtained more, but it was not until 1926 that we were free from legislative entanglement. Now it looks to me as though the Prime Minister of this country, this admirer and disciple of Joseph Chamberlain, is trying to revive the spirit of that statesman, and I am afraid it may be some time yet before he realizes that he is beating a dead horse. Canada desires no entanglement with the British nation. We are one hundred per cent true to the British crown, but we will brook no interference by Englishmen in controlling our affairs; nor do we want to control their affairs.

Canada was promised much from the short session of 1930 through the raising of tariffs, and again the tariffs were raised in 1931 under the guise of the British preference. We cannot vote for it. We cannot sacrifice our birth-right for a mess of pottage, even if we are anxious to obtain a British preference, because we are more anxious to relieve the poverty of our own people. To-day in this treaty we have preferences entangled with high tariffs. The Prime Minister knows the desire of the Liberals to maintain and carry forward the historic policy of the British preference. We also know the Prime Minister's desire for high tariffs. So in this treaty he has linked up the British preference with high tariffs and says: Here is your pet policy; now support it. While we wish to vote for the preference, how could we explain to the farmers and the people in the rural districts that we voted to raise the tariff higher than it has ever been before?

Surely when wool is so cheap, the Prime Minister could have lowered the price of woollen goods. Before these tariff rates were revealed I bought a farm in Ontario. Now that I have seen these schedules I must say that that farm is for sale at once, because I see nothing in this treaty that will help the farmer. Let me quote a few items from this trade agreement and contrast the duties imposed under the conference agreement with the duties that were previously enforced under the Conservative government and under the Liberal government preceding:

Wool piece goods—	Per cent
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Conservative . . . . .	62
Conference . . . . .	59

[Mr. Blair.]

Wool overcoating—	
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Conservative . . . . .	105
Conference . . . . .	91
High grade suitings—	
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Conservative . . . . .	66
Conference . . . . .	63
Hosiery, wool—	
Liberal . . . . .	22½
Conservative . . . . .	88
Conference . . . . .	77
Blankets, wool—	
Liberal . . . . .	20½
Conservative . . . . .	100
Conference . . . . .	72
Axminster carpets—	
Liberal . . . . .	22½
Conservative . . . . .	100
Conference . . . . .	78

Here are a few more items contrasting the present rate of duty with the rate under the Liberal regime:

	Per cent
Cotton printed piece goods—	
Liberal . . . . .	18
Present rate . . . . .	50
White cotton flannelette—	
Liberal . . . . .	15
Present rate . . . . .	48
Wool piece goods—	
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Present rate . . . . .	59
Wool overcoating—	
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Present rate . . . . .	91
High grade suitings—	
Liberal . . . . .	24½
Present rate . . . . .	63
Hosiery, wool—	
Liberal . . . . .	22½
Present rate . . . . .	77
Blankets, wool—	
Liberal . . . . .	20½
Present rate . . . . .	72
Axminster carpets—	
Liberal . . . . .	22½
Present rate . . . . .	78

One hon. gentleman stated in the house to-day that we on this side were trying to tear from the Prime Minister the laurels which he had won at the last imperial conference. That same cry went up in the short session of 1930. Then it was said that we were trying to tear from the Prime Minister the laurels that he was going to win by relieving unemployment. He went over to the imperial conference in Great Britain and again it was said that we were trying to tear his laurels from him. The next session came on and he was going to relieve the economic situation by again raising the tariffs, and still we were told that we were trying to tear his laurels off him. Now we are said to be tearing his laurels from him over his achievements at the last imperial conference. To be candid I never saw any bouquets around the Prime Minister, not from the time he assumed office down to the present. Any laurels that he won in the