

the country was changed. The country had been in a state of depression never equalled before or since, but by a change of policy which give life and vigour to interests such as that the hon. gentleman is engaged in and others, prosperity was the result. I have always held this, and I had, as somebody said, the coolness to state, at a banquet in London on one occasion on which Mr. Chamberlain was the chairman, that governments could, under certain circumstances add to the prosperity of the country by judicious legislation. This was a theory, however, and a statement not concurred in by many others. The tariff, which I will not occupy your time in discussing at any great length, I have no doubt satisfied, or ought to have satisfied my hon. friend. At the time the late government was defeated, the tariff on the statute-book was denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite as bleeding the farmers white by the duties imposed on agricultural implements, yet on the main portion of those articles—and no one knows it better than my two hon. friends opposite from Manitoba—the duty remains precisely as before, and though they were pledged to be taken off, they were left as they were, and why? Because hon. gentlemen knew that there was a certain portion of the manufacturing element that would not stand to have the duty reduced, and they gave the government distinctly to understand that if they expected their support in the future they would have to retain those duties as they were. I know the late Mr. Bertram, member for Centre Toronto, stated distinctly in his letters what they should do. Whether or not the hon. gentleman from Smith's Falls was one of those who took the same view, I cannot say, but judging from the business he is engaged in, and the fact that the tariff was not reduced on some of the principle articles he manufactures, though it was on some of them and on the raw material used in his manufactures, I can easily understand why he is delighted with the tariff and that he thinks it is just what it ought to be in the interests of the country.

The hon. gentleman referred to the inter-colonial conference and said he was delighted to know that the premier of this country was the leading spirit at that conference and proposed the different subjects which were brought before the meeting. I

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

do not know where, but it was behind me, some hon. gentleman said 'hear, hear.' Let him examine the record and point out one single suggestion that was made by the leader of this government at that conference. Out of the whole of the propositions there is but one, and that is the proposition thanking Mr. Chamberlain and others for the courteous manner in which they had conducted the conference. It is all very well to make assertions, but there is the document under his hand and let him point out what suggestions were made by the premier. I differ in toto from the hon. seconder of the motion, if I understood his remarks, which were so loudly applauded by gentlemen opposite as to what this country should do in the defence of the empire. If we are to understand, from the position the premier took at the conference, that if we are to contribute to the navy it must be a separate Canadian navy, then I say we do not want it. We are an integral part of the empire and I want no greater honour, nor would I support any policy which would be of a character which would separate us as an independent power from the empire. Are we to understand that the gentlemen who applauded that sentiment agree with the premier in laying the basis of what his day and night dream is, or what he says it is, that is a peaceful separation from the empire and becoming a nation ourselves? I notice he declares that we are a nation. We are a part of a nation, not a nation, and I never want any greater honour, as far as I am concerned, no matter where I should go, than to see Canada remain an integral part of the empire. A Canadian is just as much an Englishman and an Englishman as much a Canadian as though they all live on the soil of England, Scotland or Ireland. When one leaves the old country to come to this Dominion, he only removes from one part of the empire to settle in another, and whatever we may do in the way of aiding in the defence of the empire it should be as a part and parcel of that empire, and not as a separate and independent part of it. We have shown to the world what Canadian feeling is when the empire's interests are at stake in foreign countries, and I doubt not, should unfortunately the occasion arise, thousands of young Canadians, no matter of what