

In 1930 the Prime Minister went over to the imperial economic conference and presented to the delegates there assembled a detailed plan for mutual trade pacts within the empire. It was the first time in the history of imperial conferences in England that such a plan had been submitted. The Prime Minister's personal courage and ability stirred the convention and shocked many of the delegates, shocked some of them to such an extent that the Hon. Mr. Thomas, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, called the speech a humbug speech. The conference dissolved without taking any action upon the plan, and because of that, considerable discontent was caused throughout the old land. Sir William Morris, chairman of the British national council of industry and commerce, said:

The council is dismayed by the failure of the imperial conference on the economic side, which failure was rendered inevitable by the British Labour government's course in subordinating economics to politics.

The repercussions became so great that they resulted in the collapse of the Labour government in England early in 1931. Then a national government was formed which went to the country on a platform of empire trade, and it was returned by the biggest majority that any government had ever received in England. This was a signal victory for the Canadian Prime Minister, and he loomed large amongst the statesmen of the empire. The new government acted quickly. In November, 1931, it passed the Abnormal Importations Act, instituting duties on imports into England as high as thirty-three per cent to protect home industry. It meant the abandonment of England's former policy of free trade. Early the next year, in March, 1932, they passed the Import Duties Act, giving a preference to goods of empire countries, as proposed in Canada's plan. This preference was to terminate on November 15, 1932, if the economic conference at Ottawa was non-productive of results. But the imperial economic conference at Ottawa in

July and August of 1932 resulted in the signing of eleven trade treaties within the empire, in four of which Canada joined, namely, the trade treaties between the United Kingdom and Canada, the Irish Free State and Canada, the Union of South Africa and Canada, and Southern Rhodesia and Canada. I should like to direct the attention of the house to the successful outcome of this conference of the brightest minds from among more than one-quarter of the world's population, which outcome was an outstanding tribute to the ability and courage of the cabinet and the civil service of the dominion. I think it is something of which the people of this country should be proud. In my opinion the success of the 1932 conference was a final and complete vindication of the policies of the Prime Minister. At this point I should like to express my appreciation of the high courage and ability of the Prime Minister in the bringing of this conference to a successful conclusion. Anyone who will take the trouble to look into the negotiations which led up to the conference will admit that it was no small achievement. The Prime Minister was the only man who could have brought this conference to Canada.

What have been the results from the conference? They began to show very quickly. Within five months Canadian exports to Great Britain had increased by \$10,000,000, while exports to other empire countries had increased by ten per cent. The imports from empire countries increased by four per cent while a corresponding decrease of four per cent showed in the imports from the United States. The statement has been made that these agreements would limit our trade with foreign countries, but the effect has been the very opposite. We have had increases in our trade with Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Germany and Roumania. Foreign countries have been anxious to compete for our markets because of their increased prestige through these trade agreements. The following table shows the increases in imports from empire countries:

Canada's Total Imports From Empire Countries
Twelve Months Ended December 31

Imports from:	1932	1933	1934	Per cent
				increase 1934 over 1932
British Empire (Total)	\$128,058,000	\$132,684,000	\$157,067,000	22.7
United Kingdom	93,508,000	97,878,000	113,418,000	21.3
Australia	5,845,000	5,080,000	6,374,000	9.1
British South Africa	4,085,000	4,537,000	3,007,000	-26.4
Newfoundland	576,000	626,000	1,422,000	146.9
New Zealand	856,000	2,013,000	2,893,000	238.0

Mr. R. K. Anderson.