

in any respect our own industrial life. The highest and truest loyalty to the mother country and to the empire of which she is the head, requires that. And, if in the concessions we have made in this trade matter, we have made the mistake of having gone so far as to have weakened Canada's resources in any respect whatever, then it is our duty, in so far as it is possible, to correct that mistake.

I am not going to argue for a moment that it is not rather a difficult matter, that the administration having made the concessions it has made to the mother country, having made a straight cut in the duty of 33½ per cent, and having received a great deal of credit, and to a certain extent the warm thanks of the mother country for that act—I am not going to say that it is not difficult, while giving this 33½ per cent, to raise the tariff so high that the 33½ per cent will not be sufficient to serve the purpose of developing the trade of the mother country with us. I will not say that it is not going to be difficult to take away with one hand what you have given with the other. I am always free to believe that in this matter our government has made the mistake of being too generous, and did not in the full realize, as it now does, the consequence of it.

I presume that we must stand where we are as far as that is concerned, but not with respect to any other country in the world. If this preference, having been given is not to be withdrawn—although I would fain see it withdrawn if it has done injury to any Canadian interest—I maintain that with respect to the United States, which has profited so much by our trade, it is the duty of the Canadian administration to raise the tariff to such a point that our own people will be protected in their own markets and will not be beaten in those markets by their American competitors. I do not of course know what the intention of the government was in giving the preference to Great Britain. I presume that it was to acquire a certain amount of the gratitude of the mother country. I presume that the premier of Canada had no objection to become a persona grata to the people of the mother country; and I dare say it has been worth all it may have cost us, to have placed ourselves in a position to ascertain—that is where I see the great value of the preference—the fact that a preferential can be given within the empire. The right hon. gentleman has established that; and the preferential having been given, can it not be extended? I admit that it is a matter of extreme difficulty. I admit that the adjustment of the relations between all the colonies and the mother country will involve considerations which cannot be dealt with in a hurry. But I maintain that they can be dealt with, and I maintain that it is the duty of the government of Canada to see that our tariff is so changed and modi-

fied that it will secure the Canadian markets for ourselves while at the same time giving a preference within our markets to every other part of the empire. It is too late in the day to enter upon a discussion that would be at all exhaustive as to the manner in which that object would be effected, but it seems to me that it can never be effected by giving a straight cut of one-fourth or one-third off the customs duties of the country. The industries of the country are so involved with one another, our commercial relations are so intimate, you shake so many portions of the edifice of our tariff when you touch one of them, that such a tariff as I am suggesting could only be arrived at by having an exhaustive examination of all imports, all the industries, and all those innumerable circumstances which affect the flow of commerce. Then, we should have in this country a maximum and a minimum tariff. Every item of the tariff should be dealt with separately, and should be so adjusted that we would maintain to the greatest possible extent the trade of Canada for the Canadian people, and at the same time develop in every possible way the commerce between the other colonies of the empire and ourselves, and between the mother country and ourselves. That, it seems to me, is not an impossible thing, although it involves great difficulty. But let us hope that after the premier has had the conference which he is to have with representatives of the other colonies and with the leading public men of the empire at the approaching coronation, he will be able to report to the people of Canada that if no elaborate scheme has been developed, sufficient progress has been made to justify him in announcing that the day is not far distant when such a result may be attained.

In the discussion on this budget a great deal of interest has been attached to the criticism of the census figures in which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce indulged. I was sorry that my hon. friend dealt so harshly with one of the standard publications of the government. After my hon. friend the leader of the opposition had informed the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce that he placed some reliance on the official Year-book of the government, in which respect I thought the leader of the opposition was only paying a compliment which was due to hon. gentlemen opposite, he was, I presume rather discomfited by the manner in which the Minister of Trade and Commerce threw a great deal of doubt on the accuracy of the figures contained in that book, and rather discredited the publication. Having been in the habit of relying on the figures of this publication, I was somewhat astonished at finding that the government continued to publish a work which contained so many errors, and were willing to lead the members of this House and the citizens of Canada generally so far astray. I was not less sur-