

conference with me. He kindly consented to come and I had a most valuable and helpful conversation with him. I also had conversations with other gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, not merely since the session opened but during the time preceding which intervened between my return from England and the present moment. Whenever the opportunity has presented itself I have sought to discuss western and eastern affairs with members of parliament. My hon. friend asks me, what about the reports of my own ministers who have gone out West? I am sure the House must have been impressed with one thing, and that is the number of members of the present government who found it possible, and made it a point to visit western Canada and become familiar with western views. The very question which my hon. friend asks shows that the members of the government are doing their duty by the country in seeking to become acquainted at first hand with the needs of the country. If my hon. friend wants to have an answer to his question as to what significance there is in the reports of these gentlemen the members of the government who are from or who have visited western Canada, he will find it in the Speech from the Throne, which reflects their views.

There was one passage in particular the significance of which it seemed difficult for my right hon. friend to grasp. He quoted this particular passage:

National unity, not less than national prosperity, depends upon the surmounting of those barriers which have tended to separate western from eastern Canada and to discourage permanent settlement upon the land. Foremost in this regard are the problems incidental to tariff readjustments and to the marketing of agricultural and other natural products.

If my hon. friend thinks that passage is meaningless I will refer him to the group of gentlemen opposite who represent constituencies in western Canada, and I will suggest that he inquire of them whether there is not in it one of the most significant truths ever uttered in this parliament. The exception I take to the remarks of my hon. friend is that he seems to think there should be no negotiations between eastern and western Canada. He asked this afternoon, when are we to have stability if these negotiations are to go on? Let me tell my hon. friend that we shall never have stability in this country until we get eastern and western Canada together, until we get a policy sufficiently national and Canadian for men to stand up in this House of Commons and in referring to it speak of themselves as Canadians, not as Progressives, or Liberals or any other class but

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

as citizens who are anxious to see the country prosperous and united. We have set ourselves this task, and I make this appeal to gentlemen opposite who come from the West. We as a government have undertaken seriously to do the best we can, in the light of the knowledge we have, to bind eastern and western Canada together. We cannot do it ourselves, but we say to hon. gentlemen that if they are prepared to give us the support which we need to carry out the policies which we believe to be the national interests, we shall be able to accomplish the task that is before us. In making that statement I am not saying more than my hon. friends from the West have said repeatedly, namely, that they are prepared to stand by this government and support it so long as the government gives expression to the policies which it is pledged to carry out.

Now I might say a few words with reference to my hon. friend's remark on the tariff. To be perfectly frank, I could not make out just what he was driving at. I think he finds himself in somewhat of a difficulty. At one moment he wished to have it appear that the government had done nothing in the matter of the tariff. He told us, in not quite as loud a tone as he has done on former occasions,—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Nothing but harm, I said.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING:—that we had done nothing in the way of carrying out what the Liberal party at the convention had recommended in the way of a downward revision of the tariff. He said, or at least he tried to convey the inference, as he has done before, that we had done nothing in that direction. On the other hand, when he began to seek for material to bolster up an argument against any further changes in the tariff, when he began to think about his high protectionist friends and the kind of doctrine they wish him to preach, he declared that we had cut the tariff so much that we were destroying the implement business and closing the woollen and textile mills and I do not know how many other industries.

Mr. BUREAU: Importing more raw wool and closing the mills. Logical.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend said that when we came into office we immediately threw aside our platform; and the whole tone of his condemnation of us in the last year or two has been on that score. Now he condemns us for carrying out that platform. He said in his speech this afternoon