

results of its mistaken policies. We made our appeal to the people on the record of the administration and the effect of its policies. As I have stated elsewhere, hon. gentlemen may decide for themselves what at the time of recording their votes, was uppermost in the minds of the electorate of South Huron. If they wish to say the verdict of the constituency was against what has been accomplished at the Imperial economic conference, well and good; let them say it. Certainly the result of the by-election expresses pretty plainly what rural communities think as to what the government has achieved. It is a verdict which expresses in no uncertain terms the country's attitude towards this government's policies, and its failure to carry out the pledges it made before it came into office.

I notice the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) is still waiting expectantly. Let me quote what the hon. member said to the electorate of South Huron. On the day following his address in Exeter of September 15 the minister is quoted in the London Free Press as follows:

Eyes of the nation and the empire today are trained expectantly on South Huron, where the people have the opportunity of being the first in the commonwealth to pronounce their judgment on agreements of world importance signed at the recent Imperial economic conference.

One passage in that extract is characteristic of my hon. friend's utterances on political platforms. There is not too great a regard for accuracy. He stated that the South Huron by-election was to be the first opportunity of expression in the commonwealth. The fact is that there had been two by-elections in Great Britain,—and I think Great Britain is still part of the commonwealth. The minister continued:

This by-election is a plebiscite in which you can say whether you approve of what has been done by Great Britain, by Australia, by New Zealand and by Canada. . . . For this election, at least, it is your duty to forget political affiliations and to vote your approval of the empire and the empire agreements.

Certainly the empire was being made to play its part in that campaign, for all it was worth.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) spent a good deal of time addressing meetings during that campaign. An editorial contained in the Advertiser of October 4, contains a quotation which seems correctly to summarize his utterances:

This was the first election contest that had been held since the close of that conference, and the defeat of the government candidate would be construed in Great Britain as Canadian

repudiation of the trade pacts. It would be so construed, also, in the Canadian parliament, when it met shortly to deal with the details of measures, and to say whether or not ratification should be forthcoming.

If that is the view taken by the government I do not wonder the Prime Minister is anxious to have the treaties approved before we see them or know what is in them.

Let us analyse the vote in the South Huron by-election. The results are interesting, apart altogether from the increase in the majority of the Liberal party. The late Mr. McMillan, who was one of the most popular of candidates and previously represented South Huron, had a majority of only 349 in the general election of 1930. That majority in the recent by-election increased to 1,989—nearly 2,000. In other words there was an increase of from between five and six times the majority at the previous election. That was the result, despite the fact that Conservative administrations were in office both in the Dominion and in the province. Let us consider the figures in regard to Conservative votes polled, and we will learn how the Conservatives acted towards their own administration. In the general election of 1930 there were 5,827 Conservative votes polled in South Huron. In the by-election held a week ago there were only 5,057, or a decrease of 770 votes.

What about the Liberal vote? In the election of 1930 there were 6,176 Liberal votes polled, and in the by-election on October 3 there were 7,046 showing an increase of 870 votes. In other words the figures indicate both Conservative losses and Liberal gains. This may be interpreted as a verdict in the constituency against this government's policies, and an equally strong verdict in favour of the Liberal policies and principles as enunciated during that campaign. I say it was a verdict for Liberal principles as enunciated, because our party made perfectly clear where it stood on those questions which were uppermost in the minds of the constituents, particularly with regard to tariffs.

After a representative riding in the province of Ontario has spoken in that manner, I should like to know from the administration whether they have now decided to change their policy of high tariffs. I should like to have seen something in the speech from the throne which would indicate whether or not the government opposite have come to the conclusion that they have made a mistake in their high tariff policy. I hope the Prime Minister will tell us, when he discusses the trade pacts and agreements made with Great Britain, that he has made a mistake, and that he is now following along the line advocated