

berlain's reception precisely in line with the statement I have just made.

Mr. KEMP. A deputation from the Chamber of Commerce did not call on Mr. Chamberlain.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Well, now, my hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) is a new member, and he surely does not mean to distinguish between a committee formally appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and a number of gentlemen who were members of that body. But if it was not a deputation of the Chamber of Commerce, what have we to think of the Ottawa delegate who gives a full report of the whole proceeding, as a part of the proceedings of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce in London?

Mr. KEMP. Do I understand the Minister of Finance to say that the deputation which called upon Lord Salisbury also called upon Hon. Jos. Chamberlain?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) is mistaken again. I did not say that. My hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) tries to draw a distinction between a deputation formally authorized by the congress, and a number of gentlemen who were members of that congress, and who, I suppose, were not formally appointed for the purpose of waiting on Mr. Chamberlain. I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kemp) will ask us to treat that distinction as serious. I have here the report addressed to the president and members of the Board of Trade of Ottawa. It is of very great length, and the House would not justify me for delaying them by reading very much of it, but I think I will have to give a passage. This is the report of Mr. Thomas Macfarlane, the delegate from the Ottawa Board of Trade.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that the Dominion analyst?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think likely. He seems to have analysed this question over there very well.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. He did not represent the commercial men of Ottawa very much.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He was appointed by the Board of Trade of the city of Ottawa to represent them, and my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) is not treating that body with very great courtesy when he says Mr. Macfarlane did not represent them. I presume if he was delegated by them that he fully represented them. This report recites the story of the failure of the deputation to obtain a hearing from Lord Salisbury, and then it goes on to say:

Chamberlain interview.

Quite as interesting as the proceedings of the congress itself were certain events which happened after its close, and in which some of the delegates took part. Most of them received a copy of a printed circular containing the letters from the Premier and the President of the Board of Trade in which they declared the time to be inopportune for discussing the subject of increasing and strengthening trade relations between the different portions of the Empire. This was a great disappointment, and it was, I believe, in order somewhat to make amends for it, that Lord Strathcona arranged with the Rt. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain that he should informally receive some of the Canadian delegates.

My hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) will see that they did not go formally. They were not formally delegated by the Chambers of Commerce to go, but a number of the Canadian delegates went to Mr. Chamberlain, and I think they did quite right to do so.

Mr. KEMP. That does not say what Mr. Chamberlain stated.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Kemp) is too hasty. He had better wait. I trust the House will pardon me if I have to read a somewhat lengthy extract. The report goes on to say:

This interview took place on the 10th July, when, besides the Colonial Secretary, Lords Selborne, Amphilil and Strathcona were present. Of delegates: Mr. Kemp of Toronto, Mr. Cockshutt of Brantford, Dr. Parkin, General Twigg and I attended, who all had an opportunity of pressing upon Mr. Chamberlain our views regarding trade relations. Messrs. Kemp and Cockshutt spoke generally of the advantages of preferential trade, and Dr. Parkin tried to show the necessity of having the subject properly investigated by a commission of experts. Mr. Chamberlain replied in a quiet conversational way and endeavoured to show that no progress could be made until the colonies abandoned protection against Great Britain.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. KEMP. Will the hon. minister allow me to say, that I understood the Finance Minister to state that the deputation which desired to wait on Lord Salisbury, also