

the reductions in the Dunning budget. So that on the whole, having regard to the position of our farmers, having regard to any advantages there are for them in the tariff so far as the British market is concerned, and having regard to the fact that while it increases the general and intermediate tariff there are reductions in the British preferential tariff, I think it is fair to assume that the general rate under which commodities will come to Canada—because there has been effective competition in practically all items, some from Great Britain and some from the United States—it is fair to assume, I say, that the general level under which goods will come in will be lower than before.

Mr. SAMUEL FACTOR (Toronto West Centre): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Kennedy, Peace River) will pardon me if I do not proceed along the lines of debate which he has pursued. He has made an exhaustive analysis of the agreement, but I am not yet certain whether he is opposing or approving it. I should also like at this time to make some general observations concerning the debate. So far as I am concerned—and I believe I am supported in this view by hon. members on this side of the house—I do not conceive it to be the duty of an opposition to oppose every measure or piece of legislation introduced in this parliament merely because it is proposed by the government of the day. So, with this motion introduced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) asking that parliament approve the trade agreement between Canada and the United Kingdom, if one comes to the conclusion, after an honest analysis of it, that it is for the general benefit of the Canadian people; that it will in some way improve the deplorable conditions that prevail in this country, I think it is the duty of that member, irrespective of and notwithstanding the allegiance and loyalty he owes to his party, to support the agreement. But if, on the other hand, after an exhaustive and careful analysis of the agreement and of its implications, in the light of the details that have been disclosed and further in the light of the speech of the Prime Minister in introducing the resolution, it becomes abundantly clear that this agreement will ultimately prove to be detrimental to the interests of this country as well as of the empire as a whole; that it will not in any way help to improve, but on the contrary will aggravate world conditions; that it will not create any new trade; that it will not relieve unemployment; that it will not

[Mr. D. M. Kennedy.]

decrease, but on the contrary increase the cost of living and that it does not in any way help to solve the economic problems facing this country today, then if one comes to that conclusion it is the duty of every loyal Canadian citizen to shout from the housetops that this agreement is bad, iniquitous, that it is just as the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) has said, a "fiscal fraud."

I think it was very unkind of the Prime Minister, in introducing this resolution, to suggest that any hon. member on this side who would dare to analyze or criticize this agreement would do so in order to gain a personal or party advantage. It is a flaunting insult, an affront to the intelligence of thousands of Canadians represented on this side of the house, for the right hon. gentleman to make such a statement, particularly so when the same right hon. gentleman gloated over the fact that this agreement is based upon the principle enunciated by the Conservative party before the last general election.

The agreement involves the consideration of many economic, constitutional, imperial, international, and, in the broad sense of the term, political questions. It is a complicated agreement, one with far-reaching effects, and it is binding upon this country and the rest of the empire for a long term of years. Let me for a moment brush aside the propaganda that has been circulated by the supporters of the government concerning this agreement. You know, Mr. Speaker, many false hopes have been held out to a people burdened with grief and distress that this agreement is the panacea; that it will cure our economic ills. Let us brush aside this propaganda. It is amusing, when we find all this propaganda, to hear the leader of the government accusing this side of playing politics. I should like to ask: Who is playing politics?

Let us examine for a moment the cold, indisputable facts. The imperial conference was an historic event. I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremonies, and I must frankly confess I was greatly inspired at the sight of empire statesmen, great men gathered in this chamber representing a quarter of the population of the globe. I was particularly impressed by the opening remarks of the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin and I should like to quote a passage from his speech. I know it has been quoted by other members; it was referred to this afternoon by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre, but in my humble opinion this