

But, sir, in conclusion I desire only to say that we met this country at a moment of the greatest difficulty in the world's history. We met it at a time when there was evidence of improvement, but that evidence has been dissipated. We are now confronted with an even greater difficulty, the second effort, as I describe it and as Sir Arthur Salter and others describe it. We are now confronted with the second effort towards world rehabilitation, towards prosperity and towards overcoming the depression. A second effort always is more difficult than a first; when you are beaten back it takes more courage to call up your reserves of strength, vigour and determination than it does in making the first effort. But this government, these gentlemen who sit here, have earnestly and honestly endeavoured to discharge the great responsibilities which rest upon them, with an eye single to the advancement of this country. We have suffered much, we have endured much; this country's people have endured much, our population has suffered much, and those who would endeavour to turn that suffering into narrow party capital are entirely forgetful of their obligations to Canada. However, I have not lost my faith in the people of this country.

Mr. SANDERSON: The people have lost their faith in you.

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Sanderson) would stand in his place to make his statements, it would be much better.

I am willing to balance the confidence which the people of this country have in the government against the confidence they have in the opposition. I believe that they fairly and clearly appreciate and realize the burden, the difficulties and the responsibilities under which we labour. I believe nothing more clearly expresses the thought which is in the mind of every hon. member who sits to the right of the Speaker than the words of the poet laureate:

Though much is taken, much abides; and  
though  
We are not now that strength, which in old  
days  
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are,  
we are;  
One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in  
will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question, question.

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Mr. NEILL: I hear the rabble rabbling, I hear the sounding brass and the tinkling cymbals.

I rise with not the least intention of answering in any sense the able speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) because I realize that I am entirely not in a class which enables me to do so, more especially without preparation. But even with my mediocre knowledge and ability it seemed to me that on one or two occasions there was some rather astute skating on very thin ice. The Prime Minister made the claim that Canada was seeking to obtain and hold a favourable balance of trade. When the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) asked him what would happen if every nation adopted that policy and how could every nation have a favourable balance of trade, the Prime Minister evaded the situation by brushing it aside and saying he was not concerned about the other fellows, he was concerned only with Canada. That was the position taken for many years by the United States; as long as they were the principal tariff country and other countries, especially Great Britain, were free trade, they could work that game of playing both ends against the middle, but that has ceased to be any longer possible. I think it was Sir Josiah Stamp who told us the other day that you cannot make tariffs to-day for a few months or even a year or two ahead, you must look ahead for a decade or even two decades.

Following out that principle, I humbly submit that if the nations of the world go on as they are doing and build up tariff walls without considering what will happen when all nations have similar walls, there will be trouble. The result will be that in time every nation will be driven to protection, every nation will have a tariff wall around itself and will be engaged in trying to grab or steal a little trade from its neighbour or some other nation. We will be driven more and more into what I would call exotic internal trade, that is, to give it its final extreme analysis, we will find Canada growing our oranges while tropical countries grow their own wheat. The net result of this stealing and grabbing will not increase the total trade of the world by one iota. The end of all these tariffs wars, if indeed they do not end in physical war as has so often been the result in the past, will be compulsory universal free trade. Every nation will then produce those articles which it is best fitted by climatic or other conditions to produce; it will be able to sell cheap and buy cheap and each individual will have greater purchasing power, each individual will buy not only more necessities but more luxuries