

the markets of the world, but he never had a mandate to do that which these agreements seek to do. And in England, sir, the party at present in power, so far as I have been able to understand, never had a mandate from the British people to do what they are endeavouring to do. The evidence and proof of this is in the present disaffection in a national government in England constituted for the purpose of saving the dear old motherland, of saving the empire from ruin and destruction, and thereby saving all of its component parts, of which we are one. Thus there is no mandate in Canada, no mandate in England to do the things which are sought to be done in this haste. For what purpose? For that of saving the Prime Minister's face on account of the many promises which he made in 1930 and which were responsible for his coming into power.

I am willing to cross swords with the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) if he is ready to do so and I say to him: So far as the capital of this dominion is concerned, I am ready to meet him. I say this to the whole of the party that sits to your left, sir, that I believe the safer path of statesmanship for the building of the commonwealth along enduring lines should surely be, as the Liberal leader has said, to get the verdict of the Canadian people in a general election. And if the Solicitor General will try this in Ottawa, let him name the date.

We believe that through the 1926 conference the empire was moulded into a group of nations of equal status, independent the one from the other, free to determine their own policies, whether political or economic, but always bound by unbreakable bonds of their own making, to an empire which they loved and revered. I had great faith in these perennial reunions of the nations of the empire. I believe it was a marvellous spectacle and example to the world at stated times to see the motherland in conference with her grown-up children, all well able to earn their own livelihood and to take care of themselves, yet mindful always of their family ties and respectful ever of their mother. My confidence and belief in these conferences was increased by the result of the 1926 conference.

The proceedings at the 1930 and 1932 conferences, the nugatory results of the 1930 conference, with its tempestuous atmosphere and the, at most, doubtful results of the 1932 conference with its quasi-mercenary attitude of the fully grown children towards their mother, met by the subtlety, cunning, shrewdness and long experience of the mother in such dealings, have left me rather dubious as to the

wisdom of further conferences if conducted in that manner. My vision of an empire, the one I have often dreamed of in my short years, is the one we presently have or have had since the coming into force of the statute of Westminster, one whose bonds were those of natural love, esteem, affection, respect and trust, the one whose bonds called in 1914 for their defence so many millions from all corners of the earth; and not one, the bonds of which would be, as under these agreements, covenants imbued only by mercenary sentiments and greed, and of doubtful effect. A thousand times should I prefer weaker links in the present bonds, than bonds of silver or of gold, because the former, though weaker, would, as in the course of human life, give and take, but never break, whilst those bonds which these agreements seek to place about us will gird us for three, five or ten years, and by their very essence may, under some strain, not give, not take, but with a catastrophe at some momentous time, snap, and bring with this consequences too formidable presently to visualize.

I said a moment ago that at this conference the parties had met in an atmosphere different from that of 1926. In 1930 the eldest child was rebuked and went home without his reward. Old Mother England is a dear old mother, but canny and sagacious. She is old in years, but her intellect is keen and bright. Not only has she for many long years dealt with children who had just reached their majority, but she had, long before the birth of those budding statesmen, been trained in the art of diplomacy and of international relationships, and I think it may safely be said that old Mother England was seldom, if ever, known to have come out second best in any matter of trading. Always the other parties went away, for the time being fully satisfied, only to realize in time that the bargain was not all they had thought it to be for their benefit. No one better than old Mother England can drive an honest, if you will, but a stiff bargain, and I am rather convinced that when our budding statesmen see in time what they have bargained for, they will realize that the eggs were not so fresh and the horse was not so sound. When the proper time comes—and the Solicitor General may call it any time—the people of Canada will proclaim that if the 1930 conference was "humbug," this one was a "gold brick" for Canada.

But the conference was not called solely for the purpose of making trade agreements with dubious results. It was called for the purpose of solving the distressing economic conditions in which Canada and the world now