

that time was to criticize Mr. Chamberlain for the action which he had taken. May I read to the house what Mr. Chamberlain had to say about the United States at the time of the crisis? I should like to quote from a statement made in the parliament of Great Britain by the present Prime Minister, as reported in the *London Times* of October 4. After referring to Mr. Daladier and others, the Prime Minister said:

There is one other power which was not represented at the conference—

That is the Munich conference.

—and which, nevertheless, we felt to be exercising a constantly increasing influence. I refer, of course, to the United States of America. (Cheers). Those messages of President Roosevelt, so firmly and yet so persuasively framed, showed how the voice of the most powerful nation in the world could make itself heard across 3,000 miles of ocean and sway the minds of men in Europe.

I say to my hon. friend that if he had given that quotation to the house instead of saying what he did, he would have been more patriotic in his attitude. I can conceive of nothing less patriotic in these times than an effort on the part of any Canadian public man or citizen to try to create prejudices between this country and the United States. If ever there was a time when good will was required between different countries, and especially neighbouring countries, it is the present. It is with a great deal of pride that the present administration is able to look back upon the past three years during which it has been in office, the time during which our trade agreement has been in effect, and find ourselves able to say what cannot be denied from any source, that never have the relations between any two countries in the world been more friendly and more mutually helpful than have the relations between Canada and the United States during those three years. I think I can say with equal truth that there has been no time in Canada's history when the relations between this dominion and Great Britain and other parts of the British empire have been more friendly and mutually helpful than they have been during the last three years.

And so, without going further into the matter of these treaties at the present time, because we shall be debating their economic aspects later on, I shall content myself with repeating what appears in the speech from the throne, namely that the agreements constitute in no uncertain way a real and constructive contribution towards a betterment of world conditions, at a time of this world's greatest need.

If there is any doubt that that view is also held by other governments, let me quote from a telegram which I received the day of the signing of the treaty from the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs on behalf of the government of Great Britain. It was received at Washington on November 17, 1938, and reads as follows:

To: The Prime Minister of Canada.

From: The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

On occasion of to-day's signature United Kingdom-United States trade agreement I should like to express again to Canadian government cordial appreciation of their readiness to facilitate our agreement with the United States by consenting to such modifications of their rights under their existing trade agreement with United Kingdom as were necessary to enable it to be concluded. It is our confident hope that agreement now signed together with complementary agreement between Canada and the United States which is being signed at same time will assist substantially in reducing barriers to trade, and will thereby prove a real contribution to world appeasement.

I sent the following telegram in reply, in acknowledgment of the message I have just read:

From: The Prime Minister of Canada.

To: The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London.

Washington,

November 18, 1938.

I have been much pleased to receive your telegram on the signature of the trade agreements. My colleagues will be not less pleased than I am to know that in the negotiation of the Canada-United States agreement, we have been able to facilitate the conclusion of the agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States, thereby strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries with whose fortunes those of Canada are so closely associated. I earnestly hope that the agreements signed yesterday will provide to other countries an example of the mutual advantages which flow from the broadening of trade relations not only in the realm of material well-being, but in the wider sphere of human understanding and good will.

Let me say this further word in concluding this part of my remarks. During the present session, if hon. members in any part of the house so desire, they shall have the opportunity of voting on this trade agreement and of letting the country see by their votes just where they stand, whether they are in favour of it or against it. We then too shall know how fully this treaty meets with the approval of hon. members of this house, as we know, and as hon. members know, it has already been approved by the people of this country.

May I come now to the matter of unemployment. As I said a moment ago, the problem of unemployment is not a new one