

than with regard to any other subject this afternoon, so I shall pass over that for the moment except to draw attention to the fact that there were two conferences, the so-called Imperial conference and the Imperial economic conference. It is of the Imperial economic conference I intend to speak this afternoon, because I assume that with regard to the other conference, and in fact with regard to both, we will have an opportunity for discussion in this house at a later day. One feature with regard to the Imperial conference to which I wish to refer, however, is the fact that in the speech from the throne the government states that it has approved in principle all that was done at the conference of 1926. The speech reads:

Several constitutional questions, arising largely out of the resolutions of the Imperial conference of 1926, were fully discussed, and, in principle, approved.

Hon. members who were in this house after the conference of 1926 will recall that the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and others on the opposite side denounced my colleague the then Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and myself because we ventured to contend that the conference of 1926 had asserted a certain status for Canada and that as a result certain changes would have to be made to get rid of some anachronisms in existing statutes. They ridiculed and belittled the whole business; they said it was an outrageous boast that we should come back and contend that anything of a substantial nature had been accomplished. Now we have the present Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative party saying, in a speech from the throne that will be of record for all time to come, that in principle his government has endorsed all that was done at the 1926 conference.

The fourth division, Mr. Speaker, refers to certain administrative actions of the government since the last session. The first is a reference to an order in council which was passed prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Russia. I imagine we will hear a good deal of discussion with regard to that matter during the course of the present session. I may refer to it a little later on in my remarks this afternoon, but if I do not do so at that time I will do so later on.

The next reference is to organization having been completed under the Pension Act. That is true, but in the speech from the throne my hon. friends have not told us that although the amendments to the Pension Act were drafted and supported by representatives of all political parties in this house, in the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

appointments which have been made the government have appointed virtually only members of their own party.

Let me come to the next reference, which has to do with the situation in the west. The speech from the throne contains the following words:

My ministers have had under anxious consideration the means by which an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of western Canada may be assured, and have already taken such effective action towards that end as the circumstances appear to justify.

I hope that when the Prime Minister gets up to speak he will tell us what the effective actions were, whether he means the instructions that were given in writing by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) to all the trade commissioners in different parts of the world to do what they could towards helping Canadian trade; whether it is the trade with Bolivia upon which we are to enter shortly; whether it is the credits that are to be given to China for the purchase of Canadian wheat. I hope the Prime Minister will tell us whether those are the effective measures. If not, perhaps he will tell us what they are, because I believe up to the present time the country has been looking and searching in vain for anything which indicates a measure that will be at all helpful to agriculture and western agriculture in particular. The other day I believe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) did undertake on certain conditions to pay the transportation charges on cattle from one part of Canada to another, out of the public revenues derived from taxation. I suppose that is all right so far as it goes, but if that is the extent of the effective legislation looking to wider markets I am afraid the farmers of Canada will be far from satisfied with the record of the government.

Now I come to the legislative program. In the speech from the throne my right hon. friend says:

The broad outline of the general scheme of national development undertaken by my government, including provision for old age pensions, aid to agriculture, technical education and highway construction, has already been made known.

That is true; heaven knows it was made known often enough, but what was not made known was what appears in the next paragraph, that these things will only be proceeded with, when?

Careful consideration has therefore been given to the progressive stages by which it will be carried out, and you will be asked to consider measures sanctioning such action as the current economic situation warrants. . . .