

country; I have a great admiration for the leader of this government, I even acknowledge that he is doing his best to emerge from the pit in which he has fallen because of his foolish theories of exaggerated protection. I even believe that he is in earnest and I sympathize with him over the great distress in which his dangerous economic policy has plunged the country; however, I trust that neither my constituents nor the people of Canada will ever forgive him for having tried the game of "bluff" with their interests at stake, being careful to mark the cards in order to promote the political interests of his friends and his own.

We were charged in this house with having resorted to all possible means in order to prevent the success of this conference, it was contended that the opposition, envying the anticipated success of the government's policy, had broadcasted from the tops of roofs and in every possible time that the conference would be a failure.

Together, sir, with a number of my hon. friends on the opposition benches, I state that this charge is entirely unfounded, the same may be said of the charge of disloyalty which was also levied at us and which should never have been resorted to in the house by members on the opposite side. We are not envious of the success won by the government, first, because there is no such success, neither as a result of its policy nor as that of the last Imperial Conference, and if they had obtained any, as good citizens, we would have rejoiced because such results would have been beneficial to the people and to their interest. As did many of my friends, I abstained commenting beforehand on the results of the Imperial Conference, preferring to wait and find out what they were before approving or criticizing them and advising also my constituents to have faith.

This blame attached to the opposition, rebounds on the members of the party in power, because they travelled through the country boasting of results before they were ever made public. This is, they stated, the remedy which we bring; this is what the government wishes us to do; we repeat it to you so that everybody may know; we are aware that it will surpass all expectations.

Mr. **POULIOT** (Translation): That is another promise.

Mr. **VERVILLE** (Translation): As to the question of loyalty, we have shown in the past that we are as devoted to the mother country as our friends opposite, and that it is not being disloyal to England to criticize

the acts of this government, When we are satisfied that they are opposed to the interests of our people.

Today we are apprised of what transpired, we are aware, in part at least, what the agreements of the conference were. The game of hide and seek is over, the magic lantern is shining, but the figures on the white sheet are blotted. I should very much like to be as optimistic as the government and our friends opposite. I should rejoice if from these trade agreements there was forthcoming all the good results which the government expect. Even conceding that perhaps some good may result from these agreements, for it is seldom that even a bad bargain does not profit someone, I cannot, however, have faith in the new remedy of the right hon. Prime Minister, whose patent is very insecure. I listened the other day to the Prime Minister reading, on large size paper, to the house the famous agreements, up till then kept jealously secret, no doubt so that nobody would be able to criticize, and I thought, like many others that, truly, it was unnecessary to surround with so much secrecy the hatching of this political chicken.

I do not know, sir, whether you have ever been present at a public auction sale, an "auction" as it is called. You must have witnessed some. Suddenly, in order to draw the attention of the public, the auctioneer in his loudest tone calls out: "Gentlemen, I take pleasure in putting up a surprise box, who will bid for this box."

Mr. **DORION** (Translation): That is the way they do things in Lotbinière.

Mr. **VERVILLE** (Translation): Then bids follow, the surprise box is sold to the highest bidder who, out of curiosity opens the box, and most of the time, to his disappointment, he finds that it contains nothing of value, and therefore he discovers that he has paid too much for it.

Mr. **DORION** (Translation): It is a picture of St. Agapit's surprise box.

Mr. **VERVILLE** (Translation): The surprise box of the leader of the government is, in our eyes, like all others, it contains very little for our people. We may even question whether it was worth while to make an outlay of \$100,000, which would have been very welcome elsewhere, instead of organizing and entertaining this economic bazaar of which the profitable results are very doubtful.

The Canadian people had a right to expect immediate and practical results from this Imperial conference, and the fact of surround-