

the dominions are concerned, until the fifteenth of November next. But on the fifteenth of November, unless in the meantime an arrangement has been made which is satisfactory to Great Britain, that twenty per cent tariff as matters now stand will apply against Canada as well as against foreign countries. In what position will we then be in regard to our markets in Great Britain? Great Britain has kept her bargaining power very much in reserve but it is none the less very real. She has said that nothing will take place, so far as the dominions are concerned, until the fifteenth of November, but, as I understand the provisions of the British import duties, this twenty per cent tariff will then become applicable against Canada and the other dominions, subject to any special arrangements or modifications that may be made at the Imperial conference. That is a very serious thing. Nothing could be more so.

I ask then, if you are not going to negotiate on the protectionist basis which is Canada's present basis are you going to negotiate on the free trade basis which is the basis that Britain by her present attitude is evidently prepared to adopt? The Prime Minister of Canada has already said that he will not consider the free trade basis at all. As a matter of fact, the basis Great Britain has before her at the present moment is the free trade basis, with no duties at all against goods coming in from the dominions. But the Prime Minister at the Imperial conference said: No, we do not want any free trade within the empire; that will defeat the very object we have in view. Well, if he is not going to negotiate on a protectionist basis, or on a free trade basis, he will have to negotiate on a basis which is somewhere in between the two; I wonder where the Prime Minister is going to get in the period of time that the conference will sit trying to negotiate on some basis somewhere in between the two?

The Prime Minister and the government would be well advised to drop altogether this idea of seeking to bargain with the old country in any arrangements that they make at the conference. They would be well advised to take a generous attitude in the matter of trade which will enable British commodities subject to the provisions of a revenue tariff, to come into this country and be of service to our consumers and to those engaged in the great basic industries, and thus in turn enable our commodities to find a place in the markets of Great Britain and elsewhere throughout the world.

Another thing my right hon. friend will have to forego is this attitude of his that there can be no alternative proposition. The last time Great Britain hinted at a quota as a possibility, Britain was told the proposition could not be entertained. The Prime Minister will have to examine the quota question very carefully, and my advice is that he examine quotas very, very carefully to make perfectly sure that the quota, after all, is going to serve Canada to the extent to which the Prime Minister when he returned from England at the close of last year said that it would.

A further matter my right hon. friend will have to change is legislation with respect to the tariff by order in council. I think he has already received word from the British government that it is impossible to make any trade arrangements if the government is going to retain in its own hands the right of fixing specific duties and putting on commodities valuations of its own for duty purposes; in other words, if the government is going to retain in its own hands the power to change the tariff from day to day. That is something the Prime Minister will have to change if any successful arrangement is to be made at the conference.

My right hon. friend will also have to change his theory of making Canada a national economic unit—this idea that Canada should be made a self-sufficing unit, producing within its own borders everything that it needs. That conception comes from the time of the ancient Greeks and the Greek city-state, when the state and the city were one and the same. The city-state of the day had to be self-sufficing because of the political and social organization of the age. But in our time the countries of the world are all interdependent, and the economics that are going to suit the present day are those which relate to the interdependence of nations, rather than to the idea of single states as national economic units. But what is the idea back of this theory of Canada as an economic unit? It is entirely a protectionist device to enable the government to keep out as much in the way of trade as it is possible to keep out of this country.

The economic unit idea, so far as Canada is concerned, is linked up with another economic unit idea which the Prime Minister might just as well dismiss as a subject of discussion at the conference, and that is the conception of the creation of an imperial economic unit. That is another theory which imperialists have held for a great many years—the idea of