

The Address—Mr. Young

ated several causes for our present condition. No doubt many of these causes can be cured only by international action, yet there are some which could be remedied by the national action of the Canadian people.

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, there are two or three remarks made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) last night to which I should like to direct attention. He is reported on page 44 of Hansard as saying:

The same right hon. gentleman who went to and fro in this country and said: "Who will represent Canada at the Imperial conference in 1930?" could not fail—and he did not—to disguise his spleen that there should have been a successful conference in Canada in which he did not take part. There was nothing he could do to injure that conference that he did not do before it was held. There was no platform upon which he appeared that he did not endeavour in some way to make it more difficult for the government of his country to represent Canada at that conference.

I think that that statement was altogether uncalled for. If any criticism could have been levelled at the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in connection with his attitude towards the conference, it was that he maintained a silence in connection therewith. During last session when the conference was under discussion he told the government plainly and honestly what rules he thought should be followed in carrying on the negotiations. After that he remained silent and made no attempt to set up any stumbling block in the way of the success of the conference. The stumbling block which nearly if not completely wrecked this conference was the same stumbling block which completely wrecked the conference of 1930, and that was the legislation introduced and passed during the short session of September, 1930. Prior to going over to England to attend that conference the Prime Minister called parliament together and had legislation passed which made it inevitable that the conference should be abortive. That legislation made it impossible for Great Britain to sell her goods in Canada, but the Prime Minister went to the conference and asked Great Britain to make it possible for us to sell goods in her country and at the same time to exclude goods from other countries. The Prime Minister said: "We have successfully shut your goods out of Canada; now we ask you to shut out from your country all goods except ours." Can you imagine anything quite so nervy, if I may be permitted to use that term? Is it any wonder that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald replied: "We cannot do it." It ill behoves the gentleman

[Mr. Butcher.]

who was responsible for the wrecking of the conference of 1930, and whose policy nearly if not completely wrecked the present conference, to get up in this house and say that the leader of the opposition tried to place any stumbling block in the way of the Imperial economic conference of 1932.

On page 49 of yesterday's Hansard we also find the Prime Minister making reference to Britain going off the gold standard. He said:

When England went off the gold standard this country was struck the greatest blow it has ever experienced, the force of which we have never been able to measure.

I did not know we had been struck such a terrible blow when Britain went off the gold standard. The blow that staggered this country most was the blow that was struck by the present government in the short session of 1930, and renewed in subsequent sessions. I remember one time watching a butcher killing a steer. He took an axe and struck it on the head. The steer fell to the ground, but the butcher, before proceeding to bleed it, struck it a second blow. The steer knew nothing about the second blow; he was completely stunned by the first. If we received a deadly blow from England when she went off the gold standard, we were quite unconscious of it because we had not recovered from the blow dealt us by the present government in their tariff legislation.

My right hon. friend tells us on the same page that lack of confidence in banks, in individuals and in institutions was one of the causes of present conditions. It is not lack of confidence, it is lack of a basis of confidence. Give us a sound basis for confidence and confidence will return. If you are a manufacturer and you go into a bank and try to borrow only a thousand dollars, the banker will ask you what you want it for. If you tell him you want it to manufacture certain goods and to try to sell them, he will refuse to give you the money. Why? Because he will say: You cannot sell those goods, or if you can sell them you will not get the cost of production. But if you go into a bank and say: "I want \$100,000 to produce goods for which I have a market and for which you know I have a market," you could not get out of the bank without the money; they would not let you go. Give us the basis of confidence and confidence will be restored immediately.

On page 54 of yesterday's Hansard the Prime Minister makes this statement:

If the requirements of this country are met by the cheaper goods dumped upon our markets