

protection and are living under it to-day, snipping off a bit here and there in order to keep hon. members to my left in line but not doing the effective work they should be doing and which the people expect them to do.

There is one other matter I must bring up, but about which I must be very careful; I refer to the position taken by the Prime Minister on every occasion. I wonder if he can be smoked out of his position of splendid isolation or whether he is going to wait for coming events to cast their shadows before, as he has done in the past. I do not know just what position he takes, as a matter of fact; it has become a by-word all over Canada. If I were asked to describe his policy I could do so in four words, "dally, linger and wait." This government dally along the highway of opportunity; they linger as Mr. Micawber did in David Copperfield, in the hope that something will turn up, and they wait as they have done in the past to take advantage of the Conservative party when they initiate and develop a policy for the benefit and progress of this country. If the Liberal party would put in a policy of their own they would not require the services of whips as they have needed them during the last three weeks in this house; their supporters would follow the policy even if they did not follow the leader and there would be more jobs open to the whips.

I had intended to take up two or three other matters having to do with the Pacific coast, but I see that Victoria has been granted \$46,000 in the estimates. When I go back I will have to tell my people that I do not know just how I will explain it, because when I left Victoria they were speaking of getting \$546,000 according to the promises made them. I will go back and do the best I can; I will have to accept the \$46,000.

Mr. SPOTTON: And see that it is expended.

Mr. PLUNKETT: Surely they always spend it.

Mr. SPOTTON: No, they do not.

Mr. ELLIOTT: That is a suggestion for the riding of North Huron.

Mr. PLUNKETT: Now I wish to take up a suggestion which was made by the leader of the opposition and which, to my mind, will do more for the benefit and progress of this Dominion and the empire than any other matter before us to-day. If the United States tariff is raised as I hope it will not be, I believe, as an hon. member said the other day, that there is enough red blood in this nation to resent that action, and then perhaps

we will do something in regard to our own tariff. I believe if the suggestion made by my leader were put into effect the United States would be very careful as to what they did in relation to this country; I refer to the suggestion that the Prime Minister should call an economic conference of all the dominions of the British commonwealth of nations, to be held in the city of Ottawa. This suggestion was put forward by the leader of the opposition in his speech on the address, but no notice has been taken of it and I suppose the same "dally, linger and wait" policy will be followed in this connection. As we read the press despatches from the motherland, telling of the search of our king and emperor for a sunny clime where he may restore his worn body after years of care and service to the empire. I feel that rays of sunshine and gladness would enter his soul if the news were brought to him that Canada has said, in Kipling's words:

Daughter am I in my mother's house
But mistress in my own—

—and that this same daughter had decided to assume her proper place as the oldest of the self-governing dominions and take the lead in settling the economic problems of this great empire. I believe the king would welcome this suggestion and perhaps Britain's greatest ambassador, the Prince of Wales, who has visited every British dominion, might be sent by the king to open such a conference. Has the Prime Minister of this Dominion the courage and vision to grasp this opportunity?

On motion of Mr. Ladner the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Robb the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 1929

The house met at three o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Fourth report of the select standing committee on banking and commerce.—Mr. Hay.

Second report of the special committee to amend and consolidate the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act.—Mr. Howden.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

LOWER DETROIT RIVER CONTRACTS

Mr. GOTT:

1. Who has the contract for lights and buoys in the lower Detroit river?
2. What is the contract price?