

posals extremely embarrassing to the government that he was meeting in conference in the old land. I do not know that I can do better than to take the words of my right hon. friend and read to the house from his speech. I will not read the whole of it; I will read parts that will illustrate his method of approach.

This method of approach, if I may pause for a moment to say so, resembled nothing more closely than the presentation of an ultimatum to an unfriendly nation on the eve of war. That was the nature of it. It was a proposal which the Prime Minister must have known was impossible of acceptance. It must have been presented deliberately with a view to having it turned down. That is the way in which quarrels are deliberately made between nations, the way in which trouble has been bred at all times in international relations—proposals made which are known to be in the nature of an affront to the government to which they are directed, proposals which it is known are bound to meet with rejection, and then action taken as a consequence of their rejection. That was the method of approach, accompanied by all of the extreme of language that usually goes with an ultimatum presented in that way. Mark you, this is Canada's way of getting a market for her wheat in Britain. What I want hon. members of the house and parliament and the country generally and hon. gentlemen opposite who are applauding this method of procedure, to keep in mind is that the Prime Minister himself stated that his object was to get a market for the sale of Canadian wheat. This is the way he went about getting in Britain a market, and a preference that other countries would not have. Let me read what he said. As I have already pointed out, no reference is made to any prime minister present other than himself, whom he introduces as the great "I am."

Mr. GOTT: Childish.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is not childish. They are the exact words used by the Prime Minister. I intend to quote them in a moment.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The right hon. member will be sorry for this.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I ask you to note the remarks of my hon. friend who says I will be sorry for this. He is following his usual practice of making threats across the floor of the house. Everyone knows the arrogant tongue that my hon.

friend has. He may until doomsday tell me that I will be sorry, but I am going to stand here and say what I believe the people of Canada desire to have said at this time. Let me quote the words of the Prime Minister, his pleasing words of introduction. This is taken from the text and if in any particular I err, I hope my right hon. friend will correct me.

Before offering to this conference the plan which, once effective, will in my opinion make for greater prosperity in all parts of the empire, I shall briefly state the fiscal policy of the Canadian administration, of which I am the head.

There are the words "I am." He then proceeds in the name, not of Canada, or of the people of Canada, or even of the government of Canada, but of the Conservative party of Canada:

The Conservative party—

This is in England at the conference.

—of Canada believes in, and employ the principle of protection of the home producer of agricultural and fabricated products from harmful interference by foreign competitors.

Note these words:

This policy of the Conservative party has come to be known as the policy of "Canada first." In approaching the economic problems of our empire, I stand four-square behind that policy.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall ask the house to watch the applause of my hon. friends opposite when for sake of illustration a little later on I use similar words and language coming supposedly from the lips of the British Prime Minister, The quotation continues:

The primary concern of Canada to-day is profitably to sell its wheat. We believe that we shall be reaching towards a solution of that problem if we can establish a better market in Great Britain. This market we want, and for it we are willing to pay by giving in the Canadian market a preference for British goods. . . .

And so, I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of an empire preference, and that we take, without delay, the steps necessary to put it into effective operation.

Note those words, "the principle of an empire preference."

First, we must approve or reject the principle. I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise, and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say the day is now at hand when the peoples of the empire must decide, once and for all, whether our welfare lies in closer