

But I ask: Are we in times such as the present, going to view everything merely in terms of material values, in terms solely of quantities of trade? This afternoon my hon. friend began examining in microscopic fashion some of the concessions that had been made and that involved for the moment some sectional interest somewhere. Then he passed on to do the same sort of thing elsewhere, but confining the concessions granted to those on one side only. May I say to my hon. friend that agreements are not generally made without concessions by both sides?

He did not go over the other side of the agreement to see what we got in return. He did not tell the house this afternoon of the larger market for cattle that would be available. He said nothing of milk, of other dairy products, of fish, of potatoes, and other products. Nor did he go over the many other additional advantages that would accrue to other primary industries the products of which are to obtain wider markets. What is most extraordinary of all, my hon. friend seems to deplore the fact that there has been a reduction in taxation. One of the many things that he said to-night was that this government had made no reduction in taxation; yet a large part of his remarks this afternoon was in the nature of an attack upon us for having taken off the three per cent excise tax. If the three per cent excise is not taxation, what is it?

The truth of the matter is that since it has been in office this administration has done more in the way of reducing taxes on trade than has been done, not only by any one previous parliament but by any other two or three previous parliaments. This government has done more in the way of relieving consumers and industry of taxation where it affects trade, than has been done in many years previously in the history of this country. If you remove taxation, such as the three per cent excise, it is a removal of three per cent taxation on everything that comes into the country subject to such tax. Are you not thereby helping all consumers throughout the country? Are you not helping to put the equivalent of so much more purchasing power in the hands and pockets of the great body of consumers throughout Canada? Are you not helping to make the cost of living easier for the people of the country?

I say that so far as the agreements are concerned, this government has done a great national service. But it has done something much more than that. It has helped to make one of the most substantial contributions towards improving world conditions that has been made in this last decade.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

I venture to say that at this time in the world's history nothing has been more necessary than that every effort should be made in that particular direction. Is it not literally and absolutely true that the basis of the civilization which we cherish is dependent above everything else upon the friendly relations which exist between the English speaking countries of the world? By the English speaking countries, I mean this Dominion of Canada, the United States of America and Great Britain with the other dominions. It is literally and absolutely true that at this time in the world's affairs, when different forms of government have control in other lands, that the nations which cherish common ideals of freedom and liberty cannot be brought too closely together. There are no nations anywhere in this world that hold to the great ideals which those who love freedom cherish more than do the peoples of Great Britain, the peoples of the United States, and our own people. By these two agreements—I have put it broadly because the negotiations were carried on side by side—we have been able to bring together in a more friendly way these great elements of the English speaking world.

My hon. friend said that there were some interests in this country opposed to this agreement, but that their protests were being made sub rosa. He said that they were too patriotic to do anything about it.

Mr. MANION: I said that my right hon. friend pretended that they should be too patriotic. I did not suggest that they were too patriotic; I said that their patriotism prevented them from saying anything.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is a pity that patriotism does not prevent my hon. friend from saying a great many things.

Mr. MANION: I do not think I have to learn anything about patriotism from the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was rather surprised this afternoon to hear what my hon. friend had to say about the actions of the President of the United States at the time of the crisis last year. Considering the situation that exists to-day in the world; considering the part that the United States, along with Great Britain and France and other democratic countries, have played in seeking to work together to preserve the liberties and freedom which they enjoy, I was astonished that my hon. friend, a leader of a political party in this house, should have said in the hearing of all present that the most he thought the United States had done at