

way of bargaining were resorted to, the conference could not prove other than disastrous.

To ensure the best of feeling from every side, the Liberal Opposition, in parliament, and after the adjournment of parliament, and throughout the conference itself, refrained from uttering a word which could in any way adversely effect its proceedings. We stated quite frankly that in anything it might do towards freeing the channels of trade the Government would have our whole-hearted endorsement and support and, if needed and acceptable, our co-operation as well.

I need not, at this time, remind you of what took place when the conference met. Never, in the history of the British Empire, was there a gathering at which there was so much of bargaining, so much of threatening, so much of ill-feeling ~~in general~~ <sup>as at the conference which met in Ottawa last year.</sup> ~~as at the conference which met in Ottawa last year.~~ Today, in the face of foreign nations, what might have been construed as something little short of the break-up of the Empire itself, those who had come to our shores in the hope and expectation of seeing tariff barriers within the Empire reduced, capitulate in the end and agreements signed which were not only in the nature of increases in Canada's tariffs, as against other nations of the world, but which maintained at heights <sup>all that</sup> ~~the already excessive tariff~~ <sup>which had been levied at previous sessions.</sup>

(Get figures here of increases effected by agreements) Exhibit C