

*The Budget—Mr. Bennett*

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): I thought the hon. member spoke of observations.

Mr. BENNETT: These are in the form of observations on the brief. If my hon. friend would rather call it "observations", we will call it "observations." Let us go a step further. This is a statement filed by the West Riding Chamber of Commerce, representing whom? Representatives of the chambers of commerce of Batley and Birstall, Bradford, Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Ossett and Wakefield. Then comes the Axminster. Jacquard and Chenile Carpet Manufacturers' Association with whom the Tapestry Carpet Manufacturers' Association and practically all British carpet manufacturers not belonging to any associations are co-operating. Then we have the British Agents Association of Canada, who filed observations for the purpose of affecting the tariff of this country. But this was not the end of it. The French also filed a memorandum or observations in respect to this matter. They represented not one or two or three but some thirty-six great French manufacturers. They filed memoranda with our tariff board as to how we should deal with our tariff. Is that what my hon. friend wishes to suggest should be done? In that regard it may be very interesting to ask ourselves just how they treated us. Do you suppose, sir, for a single moment that the great republic of France, in fixing its tariff, would have Canadians tell them how they should deal with it? Do you suppose, under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, the government of Great Britain would rely upon the attitude taken by Canadians as to how they should shape and form their tariff?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, all I can say to my hon. friend is:

I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel.

Mr. DUNNING: Canada was considered and its representations were considered.

Mr. BENNETT: They never had a Canadian representative in connection with the Safeguarding of Industries Act. I am glad the minister has spoken, because I find he also had an idea as to how this should be dealt with. In the fall of 1927 at a banquet given to the Empire Marketing Board, the minister said:

He was not impressed with the fact that it had got far enough away, from the old idea—a relic of colonial days—that it was the business of the colonies and dominions to raise the raw

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materials to be shipped to the central market to be manufactured and that it was the duties of the colonies and dominions to buy the manufactured article. Mr. Dunning held that the idea was good in the old days, but no longer held in the days of the self-governing dominions. He asked the visitors how many of them would be content to raise the raw materials and develop the natural resources, unless they manufactured the finished product at home, and said that he had pleaded with the British manufacturers—

That is the observation he made.

—to transfer to the dominions plants and portions of plants and their artisan genius, rather than to allow others, sometimes outside of the empire, to gain a control of manufacturing in the dominions which might possibly become permanent.

That is his story, but now he approves of these men not bringing factories to Canada but endeavouring to influence the members of the tariff advisory board as to what protection our industries should have.

Mr. CANNON: How can we have inter-imperial trade if we are not to receive observations from the others sections of the empire?

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure that the Solicitor General was not serious in that observation. This country, as his senior minister has told him, is an autonomous country and we must be a self-governing dominion. When we have to be told by the manufacturers of other communities how we shall transact our business, what happens?

Mr. CASGRAIN: Information.

Mr. BENNETT: If it is information that was wanted, it was not necessary for these gentlemen to come to Canada. They might have sent their information by mail. Why should they examine witnesses?

Mr. LAPOINTE: To get the facts.

Mr. BENNETT: I ask my hon. friend from Manitoba what he thinks with respect to that? There was once a Canadian statesman who made the observation, and it was a very proper one, that he believed a woollen factory in Canada was as great an asset to the British Empire as a woollen factory in Yorkshire. That is the principle upon which we stand. So much for your advisory tariff board and the way it transacts its business.

Then we have the tariff schedules introduced in this budget by the minister, without having read the evidence, without having met the delegations, acting upon a verbal report, I presume, of people who would not put in writing what the order in council said they should do. Has not this house the right to know about it? When these resolutions