

*The Address—Mr. Bourassa*

An hon. MEMBER: You could not be a good Liberal.

Mr. BOURASSA: Nor do I think I would be a very good Tory. In fact, I do not think it is possible to be a good Tory.

Where the Prime Minister was wrong, in London, was in imagining that he could play the part of Neptune and silence the agitated waters of the sea, that he could, all by himself, make of the British Empire the greatest human community that has ever existed. That was but part of it. He could not expect that to be accepted by the English people. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, nearly as powerful a man as the right hon. gentleman, tried it and perished in the attempt. Previously another Englishman, who truly might not compare with our lion-hearted Richard, Sir Charles Dilke, made the attempt and perished. Therefore, he ought to have been prepared with a fuller degree of humour and wit, and such humility as he could find in himself, to receive the answer of Mr. Thomas. His mistake was in answering Mr. Thomas in the way he did. The trouble with most of our men when they go to London is to think that Englishmen, accustomed as they are to deal with the whole world, will take them as seriously as they take themselves. That has been the trouble with all our representatives in London. I think that what Mr. Thomas did was quite right and proper, and the mistake made by my right hon. friend was in being too serious about it. The right hon. Prime Minister thought that it would be the end of the British Empire if everybody did not listen to him, and likewise the leader of the opposition is wrong when he thinks that because his opponent has been a little noisy in his assertions in England and because he replied in the way he did, that means the end of the British Empire. No such thing will happen. This government will pass and perhaps the hon. gentlemen on this side of the house will come to power again. Canada will follow the trend of the world, will grow and at times will pass through many crises. There is no doubt that some day the British Empire will end because it is a human institution. It will end as did the Roman Empire and all other human fabrics, but it will not end because of either of these two excellent bachelors in this house.

By a strange coincidence, the explosion of December 2nd was published on the anniversary of the famous coup d'etat, which in 1851 changed the fate of the French republic. This one did not have exactly the same effect. People did not rise in rebellion. It is true

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that, as the right hon. gentleman said, there was approval of his proposal in most of the British papers. But the approval meant really that he had impressed most of the British papers with the difficulties of the situation, because the policy propounded was so impossible for England that no responsible leader could approve it, and that explains the rejoicing of the British papers. When he came with his explosion of the second of December everybody got away in order to escape the smell of the fuming gases and the heat of the powerless steam hissing out from the broken machine. But fortunately for him and fortunately for us, the right hon. gentleman survived. He certainly has something to accomplish, and he will accomplish much if he does not attempt to rule the world. He came back in good health; and now I hope he will start with a sound and modest Canadian policy, along the lines that he has generally adopted. But let him beware of imperial ventures and not attempt to preach a new gospel to an old nation that has known pretty well how to rule itself for the last seven or eight centuries.

Mr. F. H. PICKEL (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address, and also I wish to extend my felicitations to the last speaker on his historical oration. The hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) mentioned that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) had stated that the late government should have foreseen the catastrophe which was facing the Canadian people and taken means to prevent it. There is a good deal of truth in that.

Since 1925, by the operation of the Australian trade treaty, which included New Zealand, the largest and best group of citizens that we have in Canada has been practically put out of business. I refer to the dairy, poultry and market garden farmers of Canada. For forty-five years at least, I have been engaged quite extensively in farming operations. I am also practising medicine, and I assure the house that during the last six years it has taken all I could earn in a protected profession to keep my farm going. I can take you into my county and show you farm after farm that has been deserted since 1925 owing to the operations of the Australian treaty. I could take you upon one road of eleven miles through a good farming section and show you forty-seven houses boarded up. I could take you on another road of six miles and show you twelve houses boarded up, and that is the case throughout the county. As it is in Brome-