

1930, of which certain articles were submitted to the last Imperial conference and then approved by the representatives of the Imperial and dominion governments. This bill is simply intended to carry into effect the articles of the Hague convention which were then approved.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, March 16 consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) suggests, it may be a one man government, but certainly it has more than one man's support.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We realize that.

Mr. BENNETT: Some people act as though they did not realize it. May I, in rising to resume the debate, congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) upon the addresses with which they made the motion that now stands on the order paper. It is always pleasing to congratulate new members upon their speeches, especially on an occasion such as this. The fact that the mover was born in the province of my own birth adds something to the joy with which I felicitate him upon the speech which he delivered in two languages, and the thoughtful speech of the hon. member for North Grey indicates that he too is alive to the problems that confront this country at this time.

I was somewhat surprised, shall I say, that the right hon. leader of the opposition, with his experience, should have made even a slight criticism of the fact that one of the hon. members did read from his manuscript, but in that, as in everything else with which the right hon. gentleman has to do he was not quite consistent, for he proceeded to read the major part of his own address. I may explain that it is not my purpose to traverse at any great length the preelection address of the right hon. gentleman. He has, however, overlooked one thing which I think he should remember. That is that in every part of this

Dominion, from east to west, I told the electorate that there was one thing of which they could be perfectly certain, and that one thing was that if our party were elected to power, at the very first opportunity we would enact legislation that would deal not only with unemployment but also with the question of affording to Canadians an equal opportunity with their competitors to carry on the development of Canada, and that they should have fair competition in the work in which they were engaged.

That was dealt with in part at the short session of last fall. It was dealt with in part only because it was realized that the time was not sufficient to enable it to be dealt with in full. It was dealt with in part because it was realized that unless it was dealt with immediately the disaster to industry would be such that it could not be overtaken. In the nine years during which the right hon. gentleman presided over the destinies of this country the result was stagnation in industry with which it became necessary to deal at that session. I fling back to him the positive denial that it was not done because of any promises given to the so-called special interests, but because of the promise that was given to the people of Canada from one end of the country to the other that this would be done if we came into power, tariff legislation would be passed.

I desire further to say to the right hon. gentleman that if he has the courage to make direct statements let him make them; do not insinuate them. If he desires for a single moment to suggest that because of any understanding or agreement with so-called special interests certain legislation was introduced in this house, then let him make the statement, for if any man living should know what the hold of the special interests was upon the government, it should be the right hon. gentleman who presided over the last administration. When the true conditions with respect to financial and other matters in this country are made known during the progress of the session he will realize fully just what that means and he will have ample opportunity then to give effect to the promise he made yesterday, that the business of the session would not be hurried through. It will not be hurried. There will be ample time to investigate these very matters to which he has referred, and I do not think either he or the gentlemen who sit behind him will then be making statements of that kind in this house by innuendo rather than by direct statements, by inference rather than directly, for apparently they lack courage to make them directly. They think that by the old means, at which