

course to be pursued by some of the nations. I would think that the Mother Country herself might be none the worse of a bit of good, sturdy Canadian and colonial advice, but you have got to give that advice soon enough, it must be early enough, so that the successive steps taken shall be along the line of common sense, of arbitrament, of good feeling, and away from war, for this part of the world wants no more war. My proposition is simply that the government should endeavour to have direct representation, not merely of a high trade commissioner, but direct representation by someone of cabinet rank and authority, who would sit in the inner counsels of the Empire, would give his views, and report to Canada what was being done, so that long before war would even be in prospect, we would know whether or not all had been done to avoid a possible conflagration. It may be my hon. friend who interrupted me derides that point of view. It may be that he prefers to see Canada sailing on, fatuously content with her lot, until the moment when the red fire spreads above the horizon, and then he will call parliament together to sit down and talk about putting out the conflagration.

Mr. HOEY: I would like to ask the hon. gentleman a question and I do so in all seriousness. Does he not think that the League of Nations, properly functioning, will accomplish all that he has in mind, without the idea of Imperial centralization in the sense in which he has expounded it? I am putting the question candidly for information.

Mr. BAXTER: I am not able to answer my hon. friend as to that. To my mind, the League of Nations will have no power unless it is backed by the fighting power of a number of states, matchless in their strength. But before you get the League of Nations doing what it ought to be able to do, you will have to have the bigger nations inspired with a proper view towards the rest of the world. The League of Nations, to my mind, will be a valuable power for keeping in awe and restraining the minor nations. I fail to see how the League of Nations can ever restrain a major nation. At the same time, like my hon. friend, I have given such little adhesion to it in Canada as I have been able to give. I wish its purposes God-speed, and I will do anything I can to further its aims.

We shall have to consider the amendment and the subamendment because we shall have to vote upon them. This may not interest any one else, but it did interest me a little; I have before me a comparison of the amendment moved by the hon. member for Spring-

[Mr. Baxter.]

field (Mr. Hoey), who certainly does not expect me to vote for it:

That in view of the increased burden of taxation and of the hardship which many of the people suffer from this burden, and the unrest and dissatisfaction arising therefrom, and in view of the desirability of adopting measures to reduce the cost of production, and effect such relief to consumers and producers as may be within the power of Parliament, the House is of the opinion that substantial reductions of the burdens of customs taxation should be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the highest importance:

(1) Diminishing the very high cost of production, which presses so severely on the primary producers of the country at this time;

(2) Reducing the cost of living to the great masses of the common people, many of whom are being forced out of the country by the prevailing economic conditions.

Then I turn to the Debates of 1920, where, at page 2510, I see the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) moved, amongst other things, seconded by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King):

That in view of the continued increase in the high cost of living, of the greatly increased burden of taxation, of the hardship which many of the people suffer from these causes, and the unrest naturally arising therefrom; and in view of the desirability of adopting measures to increase production and effect such relief to consumers and producers as may be within the power of Parliament, The House is of opinion that, pending a wider revision of the tariff,—

That has been left out of this amendment. Apparently my hon. friend for Springfield has no hope for any wider revision of the tariff.

—substantial reductions of the burdens of customs taxation should be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the highest importance; first, diminishing the very high cost of living which presses so severely on the masses of the people; second, reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, the vigorous development of which is essential to the progress and prosperity of our country.

I never thought my hon. friend for Springfield was such a plagiarist, for this is really the grossest instance of plagiarism that I have yet seen in this House.

Mr. HOEY: All the great poets have been plagiarists.

Mr. BAXTER: As I said, I hope the hon. gentleman will not expect this group to vote for his amendment, because we stand where he does not like to have anybody stand. We stand where we have always stood, whether we are right or wrong—and we believe we are right—on the ground that a fair, reasonable, proper measure of protection should be given to the industries of the country in order to build up an urban population which will draw its sustenance from the rural population, both being interdependent. We do not