

for the father's downfall later died also. The little girl's brothers and sisters who had been attending Sunday school asked her whether the publican had gone to heaven or to hell. The story relates that the little girl replied, with a fine mixture of truth and charity: "Well, we all hope he has not gone to where we are afraid he has." We will say the same about this treaty. We will all hope it turns out better than we believe it will—but always looking forward to a world conference.

The Imperial economic conference was confined within too narrow limits. That conference was representative of twenty-five per cent of the world's population, and the delegates should have looked forward to a world conference. Early in their deliberations they should have placed themselves on record concerning three basic matters. They should have said they were in favour of the abolition of reparations, world wide low tariffs, and a world wide stabilized monetary system. Then they could have shown their sincerity by following these ideals in their empire conference. Of course it could not have done anything about reparations, but action could have been taken concerning empire low tariffs and empire stabilized currency. Had such action been taken the British Empire would be in a much better position to approach a world conference. As I see them, the three points I have mentioned are the most important matters for consideration in the world to-day. None of them would restrict trade, as these empire tariffs propose to do; on the contrary they would increase trade throughout the world. We would have demonstrated that the age of national selfishness is past and that only by working for the good and prosperity of the world could each nation obtain or achieve for itself the fullest measure of freedom and prosperity.

I have only another minute or two more at my disposal, Mr. Speaker. Let me give an illustration of our economic situation. In the veldt in Africa, a portion of that country which would correspond to our prairies, I have enjoyed a perfectly calm day with brilliant sunshine, not a trace of cloud in the sky, not a breath of air or wind. All of a sudden the leaves of the trees begin to tremble and shake, and still there is no sign of wind or cloud. It is rather a weird thing the first time you see it, but those who realize its significance make an immediate bolt for shelter, because it presages one of those terrible and violent thunderstorms that are common in that part of the country. And, sir, to bring it down as an analogy to the political situation today, when I see good

Anglo-Saxons born in Canada, England, Scotland, with no suggestion at all of foreign origin or point of view—when I hear them frankly expressing communistic ideas, and saying: "I voted Conservative last time, but next time I am going to vote communist," I sometimes wonder if we should not listen to the noise in the tree tops and take steps, quick steps, to do something to help the industrial and unemployment situation lest the whole economic fabric topple about our ears.

Mr. J. A. VERVILLE (Lotbinière) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I am not so conceited as to think that I shall throw new light on this debate which henceforth will be known as the Imperial Economic Conference agreements, held at Ottawa in August last.

If I take part in this discussion, it is because I wish to register my protest against these agreements which I shall designate as a screen invented and worked out by the Prime Minister of this country to conceal the unfitness of his government.

In fact, should we refer casually, to the circumstances which surrounded the birth of this government, we are immediately reminded of the numerous, pompous, misleading and unpractical pledges which made up the Conservative party's program, at the last election, namely: the solving of the unemployment problem within thirty days after the voting, work for everybody, a greater trade activity, the expansion of industry, special and exaggerated protection to the latter, and this to the detriment of all classes of society; a considerable increase in the prices of farm products, success, plenty of work for all, and finally protection for everyone.

Two years have elapsed since the last election, during which the people of Canada, shamefully deceived, in vain awaited the fulfilment of all these high-sounding promises and continuously saw its hopes frustrated.

After two years of a vacillating and bad administration, two years under a regime of protection, the lot of the people, far from having improved, is worse by 100 per cent.

People had been promised that business would pick up and prosperity follow.

It is interesting, today, to make an inventory of our economic activities and to investigate whether the policy of this government is not really responsible for the situation we are in: the federal and provincial governments, municipalities, private companies, public utility services and individuals are practically bankrupt and so undeniable is this state of affairs, that if, at present, the Canadian people were