

would have been. So I think that at the moment the minister has an opportunity to do what he himself and other members of the government have been saying they would like to do, namely, have Canada set an example to the empire, and through the empire to the world. No better occasion could be chosen for such an example than this Empire day. If it were not that the rules of the house make it impossible for me to move an amendment to delete the application of this tax so far as other parts of the British Empire are concerned, I would move that amendment at this time, but as my hon. friend knows better than anyone else, inasmuch as the revenues might be affected thereby, and he says that they would be, a motion to that effect from this side of the house would be out of order; it would, however, not be out of order for him as minister to have one of his colleagues move to exempt from the operation of the tax all goods imported into Canada from different parts of the empire, and I hope that he will do that.

In speaking on this section may I mention one other phase of this matter. I confess that I have found it very difficult to understand what was really in the minds of the ministry with respect to this particular excise tax so called. I cannot think of it as a revenue tax because I feel that if the ministry really wanted to get revenue by means of the customs tariff they would make a tariff for revenue. They would not add to a tariff that is already very high, a rate of duty that makes a still higher protectionist tariff. So I cannot accept, as freely and as fully as I should like to be able to do, the idea that this tax is really intended in the long run to be one for revenue purposes solely and that the revenue to be derived from it is to be intended to form part of the general revenue that goes into the consolidated revenue fund to be drawn on for any purpose that may be legal in that connection.

The thought has occurred to me that possibly along with statesmen in other parts of the British Empire the ministry may have in mind the creation of something in the nature of an imperial zollverein, and in connection therewith the organization of a fund which will be used for the purposes of so-called "development" within the empire. As my hon. friend knows, a certain school of imperialists have always advocated that there should be thrown around the British Empire a tax that would apply to foreign countries but would not apply to commodities imported by different parts of the empire from other parts of the empire. Such a scheme

would be in the nature of an imperial zollverein. They have thought that such a scheme to a certain extent at least would appear to the rest of the world as an outward and visible sign of the unity and completeness of the empire as a fiscal entity. In one form or another, it has long been suggested that some particular tax should be earmarked for development or other specific purposes within the empire. I think the proposal was first put forward in connection with imperial defence, that every part of the empire should contribute one or two or three per cent of its revenues or revenue to be derived from some special source for the purpose of the development of imperial defence. When that idea did not find favour in different parts of the empire, the idea was put forward of a similar development fund for the purpose of imperial organization so-called. There is now the suggestion that a central fund for the purposes of imperial development should be started.

I shall not take up time to quote from authorities, but I have in my hand a copy of *The Dalhousie Review*, which is a publication issued in the home city of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. It may serve as an example. It contains, as its first article in the January, 1932, issue, an article by Sir Robert Hadfield, entitled the *Economic Development of Empire*, and at page 428 I find the following paragraph which embodies the idea I have been seeking to disclose. Sir Robert Hadfield says:

I have come to the conclusion that in connection with this super-organization of empire development we should have an imperial development fund of very considerable magnitude to be raised and used under practical arrangement with our overseas kinsmen, for the sole purpose of developing all our wealth-creating opportunities. Further, I propose that an empire development board be formed, which must include representatives from all parts of the empire, and possess a permanent organization in each country. This body should meet far more frequently than the Imperial conference, and should hold session in Great Britain and in the dominions in rotation, so that every member should get first-hand the opportunity of experiences of the conditions, requirements and possibilities of different parts of the empire.

If at the forthcoming economic conference a proposal should be put forward for the creation of some central fund which will be at the disposition of a central organization, I hope that my hon. friend and those who are associated with him will weigh very carefully all the arguments which have been presented in the past against any scheme of centralization as an effective means of holding the British Empire together. I believe that the