

mind it simply means that the history of any country is made up of the life stories of the men and women who have lived in that country; that it is a compound of the biographies of all the people who have had something to do with the shaping of the destiny of that country from its beginning. Some, of course, by reason of circumstance or education or the opportunities presented to them, or by the exercise of unusual ability, have made a greater contribution to the history of their country than others. I am sure that when the years have rolled by and the historian of the future comes to write the history of this great country in which we live, when he paints the picture of the great men and women who have contributed to the development of our country; when he describes in detail the lives and activities of the great statesmen of Canada from its beginning, I believe he will give a very prominent place to the name and the achievements of the present Prime Minister of Canada, and that he will record as not the least of those achievements the results which were attained at the recent Imperial economic conference.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, the mild, innocuous and yet constructive address to which we have just listened by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver), to my mind is a complete repudiation of the statement which appeared yesterday afternoon in the *Montreal Star*. Referring to this debate the following statement was made:

Anything that is contributed from now on must be not so much vain repetition as faint, backbench echoes of the arguments already impressed by the leading debaters of all parties.

While humbly bowing to these superior stars I think it the duty of every hon. member of this assembly, regardless of the party to which he may owe his allegiance, to express his or her considered conclusions at this time in our history in regard to the resolution moved two weeks ago today by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett), with regard to the trade agreement between Canada and the motherland, and the agreements with the various component portions of the British Empire.

I agree most emphatically with the observation made a few days ago by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Moore) during the course of this debate, that this is an historical occasion in the development of our history, and I say it is no time for haste or hurry. These schedules are in full operation already,

and I think it is the bounden duty of every hon. member sitting on the floor of this house, regardless of his political convictions, to express his point of view at this time, without fear or favour, in order to let his constituents and the whole Canadian people know where he stands on this most important question.

I believe the speech which preceded mine is a complete illustration of that truism which was uttered in England not long ago by Lord Snowden, that pale, frail, splendid ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said that as soon as you have a tariff system entrenched in the life of a nation, there you have sectional interest combating against the national interest. The address to which we have just listened, Mr. Speaker, was narrow visioned; the hon. member was looking only to that part of Canada from which he comes. There may be something in these agreements—I do not say there is not—of benefit to my province of British Columbia. There may be something here, if we agree with the remarks made the other evening by the hon. member for Yale (Mr. Stirling), which will be of benefit to our apple growers in that province. There may be some benefit here—I do not admit there is—for our lumber producers. There may be some benefit here—I do not say there is—for our producers of copper, zinc and lead. There may be something here for the fishermen of British Columbia; I do not think there is. There may be something here for the wheat producers of our western plains; I do not say there is. But, Mr. Speaker, even if these assertions should be true I say it is the duty of every man, be he Liberal, Conservative, Progressive or Labour, to look only at one result, one issue and one conclusion in regard to these agreements; that is the national interest of the people of Canada. The great British statesman Pym once said "That form of government is best which doth best actuate and dispose every part and member of the state to the common good." The guiding principle which I should like to have rule my remarks this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is what I conceive to be the interests of the consuming masses of the Canadian people, because I believe I am here to represent their interests.

I am sorry the Prime Minister is not here at the moment, because I should like to say that this afternoon we had the most distinct proof of the absolute inadequacy of this alleged agreement. A question was raised in regard to whether the preference,—the absolutely useless preference—of six cents on wheat would be effective if wheat were consigned to storage at a shipping point in the