

seas, and the cane could not be brought in. French scientists said, "We will make sugar out of beet roots," and to-day enormous quantities of sugar are shipped from France across the Mediterranean to that immense French territory where there are sixty million coloured people.

We have fifteen artificial silk factories. Cotton we do not need at all. When we were young there was very little cotton in the country; people had linen, which was much better. If you went into a farmhouse in our province you would see a loom there. The honourable gentleman from De Salaberry says people used to make their own sheets and blankets and quilts right where he was brought up. Nowhere else were boots made so cheaply as in Canada; and it is a strange thing that though there was no duty on boots going to the United States, boots from Canada could never be sold there. For some reason or other the Americans did not like the shape of them. That is something that cannot be explained.

I am afraid I am straying a little from the path—

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: It is seldom the beaten path, anyway.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I thought it would be interesting to get a copy of the Statute of Westminster. This reminds me of the Imperial Conference. The Statute is not long, and when you have read it all you do not make very much out of it. I have also a copy of the debates in the Imperial House of Commons on this Statute. We all remember that when the Prime Minister, Right Hon. Mr. King, came back, he made the statement that everything was changed, that we were going to be an independent nation, and so on. There was another Prime Minister who was returning at the same time and passed through Montreal—Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister of Australia. At lunch I asked him, "Is there any change?" He replied, "Not a bit—no change at all." So it looks as though the representatives who attend Imperial Conferences talk a great deal, but everybody goes home with his own story, whatever it is. Mr. Bruce thought that I was an Imperialist. If there is any one thing I do not like, it is this independence business. If you want to break up the Empire you are going about it the right way. I have lived long enough to see that you cannot have independence here and independence there. The first thing you know, Australia will go one way and New Zealand another, and then South Africa, and it will not take them long to go. And the Irish Free State might go too. Then what

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would Canada do? Of what value would be its independence and its ambassadors at Tokio, Washington and Paris? Now suppose, for instance, that our ambassador to Tokio, the Hon. Herbert Marler, wanted to make some remonstrance. He would be like the League of Nations, without any force to support him. He could only say. "I ask you to do so and so, if you will, but I cannot make you do it. I have no fleet nor army." It is true that we have a couple of gun boats. By the way, I wonder who is the Lord of the Admiralty in this country who ordered those boats to go down to San Salvador. I think the right honourable leader of the House should not smile, for it is a serious matter—it is a *casus belli*.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Your smile is infectious.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I thought those boats were stationed at Esquimaux, on the Pacific Coast. It is quite a long trip that they have taken, and the cost of the coal they consumed must be a considerable item in these hard days. Suppose they went through the Panama Canal: in addition to all the other costs they would have to pay tolls of \$1.25 a ton, which for a boat of 10,000 tons would be \$12,500. Why did we send them down there? Would it not be a good thing for the right honourable leader of the Senate to give us an explanation some time during this session? After all, although we are not the custodians of the public purse and have no right to vote money, we have a right to see that it is not spent improperly. I should like to know who is the chief of the Admiralty in this country. Mr. Desbarats, the Deputy Minister of National Defence, surely would not take the responsibility of sending our boats. Perhaps if we questioned the Minister of Marine, whose name I do not recall at the moment, he could enlighten us. However, I am told that the boats are coming back and that none of the crew caught hay fever or anything else.

To my mind this independence business is absolutely wrong. I believe in the unity of the Empire, and if that means being an Imperialist, then call me an Imperialist. I have no confidence—and I say this with all due respect—in the Conference that is to take place here. There will be many fine speeches and dinners, and I suppose plenty of champagne and so on, and everybody will be pleased. But what can it achieve? The delegates will have no special mandate. I dream of the day, and I think it will come,