

ter of South Africa, General the Right Hon. J. C. Smuts, having read the statement I have just quoted from the Prime Minister of Great Britain in which the latter says that it had been agreed at the Conference that His Majesty's Government would represent the whole Empire at Washington, made the declaration that, so far as South Africa was concerned she did not propose to return to the colonial status, but was going to maintain the status which she had won at the Peace Conference at Paris at the conclusion of the great war, and that South Africa would not be represented by a delegation to be named by the British Government to take its instructions from the British Government but that she would be represented by one of her own delegates acting under instructions from the government of South Africa, representing South Africa as one of the countries belonging to the British Empire, or not be represented at all. If Canada was fortunate enough to be represented at the Conference at Washington by her own representative we have to thank the Prime Minister of South Africa and not the late Prime Minister of our own country for the fact that we had that representation. I might add by way of confirmation of what I have just said, that in a cablegram of October 8th Lord Curzon, British Minister of Foreign Affairs, said to the British Ambassador at Washington:

We leave to the sole discretion of the United States' Government what powers are to be invited.

He went on to say later:

His Majesty's Government would now prefer to include the Dominion point of view.

So that as regards representation at Washington there seems to have been three stages. First the understanding arrived at during the conference of Prime Ministers in which it was apparently agreed that representation at Washington would be by the British delegation appointed by the British Government, receiving its instructions from the British Government and reporting to the British Government, Canada to come in or not to come in according to the decision of the British Government. Then there was the second stage.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I rise to a point of order. I have made a statement on the subject to which the hon. member continuously refers, a subject within my own knowledge which he persists in contradicting. He has no

right to do so. I stated I was no party to any such arrangement at the Imperial Conference that Canada should be represented merely by a delegation appointed by the British Government, taking its directions from the British Government, nor was such an arrangement arrived at while I was a member of the Conference. Our negotiations took place in this regard by correspondence, and from the first I insisted that we should name our delegate and that that delegate should take his instructions from us.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have no desire in any way to contradict my right hon. friend, but I confess that when the Prime Minister of Great Britain makes a statement which he gives to the entire world, which was accepted in South Africa and which was accepted in Australia as being a correct statement, I find it somewhat difficult not to accept that statement as correct.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would remind—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would remind the hon. gentleman that I was not there to the end of the Conference.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): That is a way out.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think if my hon. friend is pleading that he was not present, he should not be so emphatic as to what took place.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am emphatic as to what I was stating.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am responsible to what I was a party to and only that.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not know what my right hon. friend is responsible for, but I do know that we prorogued this House in time to allow him to be present at the proceedings of the Conference, and I am sorry that he has to make the statement that he was not present at one of the most important meetings of the Conference.

May I pass to another matter which my right hon. friend felt somewhat sensitive upon, and that is the statement in the Speech from the Throne in reference to the revision of the Customs Tariff? My right hon. friend, in the course of his remarks,