

# Premier Bennett's Masterly Address In Treaty Debate

## Closing Speech Of Prime Minister On Nov. 3 In Reply To Opposition Criticism Of Anglo-Canadian Agreement. Liberal Leader's Insincerity Scathingly Exposed.

Following is the full text of the speech of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister, which closed the debate in the House of Commons on the Anglo-Canadian agreement negotiated at the Imperial Conference:

(Continued)

Now let us look at the letter which the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Mackenzie King) wrote from the Ritz Hotel in London on the 31st of October, 1932, to Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame. Who is he? He is Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, he has changed his name, that is all—the name Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister who lived in this city for a month or more, one of the delegates. Who was he then? He was no longer the President of the Board of Trade—that office was filled by Mr. Runciman; but what he was you all know—Secretary of State for the Colonies. Now let me read for the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Baldwin was then the Prime Minister. Mr. Chamberlain had made certain definite offers—offers of a preference! Would you believe it? Offers of a preference; offers to give free entry into the markets of Great Britain to commodities from Canada. Of course every gentleman within sound of my voice will believe at once that the right hon. gentleman said: "Oh no; we want nothing of that." But that is not what he said. Listen to his letter:

My Dear Sir Philip—  
My colleagues and I have been considering with care the proposals as to preferential duties—  
Duties, mark you!

Put forward by the government of Great Britain at the meeting of the conference on October 9, and which I discussed with you in our conversations at the Board of Trade on Saturday morning. These proposals, which it was observed were within the framework of the existing fiscal system of Great Britain, will, we believe, be received in Canada with due appreciation as of distinct value to Dominion producers.

When he proceeds:

More important are the general issues raised in the statements made by yourself in your presentation of the present proposals, and by the Chancellor of the Ex-

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Milling, particularly of wheat flour, ranks high among Canadian industries.

I ask the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw) to listen to this:

It is closely and naturally connected with our agricultural industry. The production of flour normally runs about fifteen million barrels; last year our exports reached nearly seven million five hundred thousand barrels, of which nearly five million came to the United Kingdom. The industry is capable of very great expansion if greater markets are opened. Flour is, of course, a commodity of which the production and milling capacity in Great Britain is large. The effect of a duty—

Of a duty!—  
—would, therefore, depend very largely upon the extent to which the Canadian miller was put in a less advantageous position than the British miller; a duty which was distinctly protectionist rather than preferential, would not in the long run, we believe, be as advantageous to Canadian millers as the existing situation.

And this government has secured for the Canadian millers a preference of ten per cent—no ten cents a barrel—on flour from Canada entering Great Britain. In other words, a vessel laden with flour from the United States, with a cargo valued at \$100,000, has to pay \$10,000 before she can be warped into the wharf at Liverpool, while the Canadian cargo goes in free. The right hon. gentleman proceeds:

Of the other agricultural products, excluding those already covered, the most important are fresh fruits, apples, peaches, pears and plums, all of which Canada produces in unexcelled quality, and, especially in apples, in very large quantities, with difficulty at present in finding profitable markets.

Let the hon. member for Hants-Kings vote against this agreement to indicate his gratitude.

(—for Canada, preference on fresh fruits is of much more importance than on dried or preserved fruits); cheese, butter and eggs, bacon and hams, canned vegetables. Of our fishery products, canned salmon, which is faced with competition from the United States, Japan and Russia, would at present be most helped by a preference.

But Mr. Speaker, it did not stop there. Let us proceed:

Our forest products, with due observance of conservation principles, are capable of great expansion, notably lumber, newsprint paper, millboard and strawboard, and chemical and mechanical pulp. Canada has also large resources in ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and in the non-metallic minerals, which a substantial preference would assist in developing. Our iron and steel and other metal industries, including agricultural implements and electrical apparatus, our wood-working, rubber and other manufacturing industries would supply a wide range of products.

On a preferential duty basis, mark you! Let us proceed:

I understand it is not your desire at this stage to obtain other than a very general statement. On all the above, and any other branch of Canadian industry which might be included within the range of duties to be imposed at any time, our government would be pleased to avail itself of the opportunity, as occasion arises, of making suggestions in further outline and in detail.

Well, sir, to hear the Liberal party, after that, denounce duties is to wonder what their policy is now and in what direction they are travelling. I shall presently show that the extreme left has once again claimed them in the hope of a repetition of 1926. They have forgotten the great traditions and the history of their party, and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsword) is now their directing genius.

But, sir, it did not end even there. The Right Hon. George P. Graham represented Canada at the next meeting of the conference, and what did he say? Well, he said all that his leader had said and a little more too. You will find it all at pages 166, 167 and 168. I will not take up the time of the house reading it, but Mr. Graham made a statement as to the preference, which would be so desirable for Canada. He quoted, with approval, the language of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, thanked him for affording him the opportunity to speak, and then said that while we were not proceeding in a bargaining spirit—running time to form, as indicated by his leader—the change in the British fiscal system would create a new situation. Then, after referring to Canadian exports on which the preference would be most valuable, he makes a declaration of faith with respect to wheat. Listen to these words:

Wheat obviously comes first; and easily foremost. It is our most important article of export; the quality is unquestioned; the market is now highly competitive; Canada's export surplus is greater than the British import.

Now mark these words:

We recognize, however, that in this case the issue has been decided. The Prime Minister has announced that the British Government does not intend to put a duty on wheat. We accept that decision. It, of course, restricts the range and value of the preference as regards the Canadian producer, but we fully and freely recognize that it is for this country to decide what is in the interests of its people and to act thereon.

LIBERAL VOLTE FACE

And now, confronted with a preference of two shillings a quarter, which is what Mr. Chamberlain offered when Mr. Haines came to Ottawa, the noble yeomen of the west will stand up and vote against their fellow agriculturists, declaring that what Mr. Graham, following his leader, described in 1923 as valuable is now valueless and illusory.

Mr. Graham then proceeded to discuss barley, flour, other agricultural products, fishery products. With regard to agricultural products, he made this statement:

Of the other agricultural products, excluding those already covered, the most important are fresh fruits, apples, peaches, pears and plums, all of which Canada produces in unexcelled quality.

Then he went on to discuss fishery products, forest products, metals, minerals and various manufactures, and he said that our manufacturers in Canada were not merely assembling plants but great producers from the ground up of many manufactured products, and added that our chief manufactures still remain wholly Canadian. He gave specific examples of wholly Canadian manufactures. With regard to the Canadian motor car industry, he said:

I wish again to say how thoroughly we appreciate what the British government has seen fit to do in its proposition.

That proposition was made by the same Chancellor of the Exchequer who met the delegates of the rest of this British Empire in July and August last.

1932 CONFERENCE

Now we come to 1930 and 1932. Just one year ago this month I sent an invitation to every Prime Minister of every part of the British Empire, asking them whether they would come to this capital city of Ottawa to hold an economic conference, and as a result of that invitation there met here for four or five weeks, in the months of July and August, representatives from every part of the empire and, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, representatives from the colonies as well.

Let us see just how they compared in personnel with those whom the right hon. gentleman who now leads the opposition met in England in 1923. We find the same Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, whose reputation is enhanced by the attack made upon it by the source from which it came; the same Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame now Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister; the same Mr. Baldwin, ex-Prime Minister of Great Britain, now serving under the Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald; not the same president of the Board of Trade, but the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, and Sir John Gilmour, Minister of Agriculture. These were from Great Britain, and also the Right Hon. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Dominions, who was not present at the conference of 1923. And what happened? The same empire, the same problems, and in most respects the same personnel, and they solved the problems and arrived at an agreement which is now before this house. Yet the Liberal party is asked to go out and fight it, notwithstanding that in 1923 the same Liberal of the same party, then Prime Minister now no longer such, espoused and supported it; but being in opposition he must now oppose it. It is not difficult to understand why. Those of us who recall the election of 1930 remember that the first keynote speech of the right hon. gentleman he saw fit to make an issue of the question: "Who will represent Canada at the Imperial Conference?" I, I, I—and my Minister of Justice, my Minister of National Defence and my Minister of Trade and Commerce; and if we do not go the empire will perish."

A SORRY SPECTACLE

What a sorry spectacle of a great party, under leadership such as that, which prefers to go into opposition rather than support the cause of the country, a cause which it supported so vigorously only a few short years ago. Are we now to know that wh—

### W. C. T. U. Notes

#### National Temperance Study Course for Sunday Schools—Senior How the Free Man Becomes A Slave

By REV. JOHN COBURN, D.D.

Many years ago in the schools of Canada, they used to hold spelling matches. Boys and girls in a room would choose up sides. The teacher would give them words to spell alternately, and if a boy or girl made a mistake in spelling a word, that one was out of the game and had to take his or her seat. The test was to see who could stand up the longest. In a little country school there was a boy who, for a long time, was able always to stand up last in the spelling matches. No one could beat him. In fact, after all the others had gone down it was often quite difficult for the teacher to find a word that this boy could not spell. One of his companions, however, one day noticed that whenever this boy was asked to spell a word, he would play with a certain button on his coat. The companion thought of a plan by which the boy could be beaten. So on the day when the next spelling match was to be held, he took his mother's scissors to school and, in play, managed to snip off this button. When the spelling match began the boy was given his first word to spell. His hand went immediately to where the button used to be, but it was gone. He was so confused that he missed the word and had to go to his seat.

This story illustrates that we are all creatures of habit. To do a thing the first time may be difficult. It is a little easier the second time. Every time we attempt it, it becomes easier, until we do it without any difficulty, and finally we find difficulty in not doing it. The first time a boy rides a bicycle he is likely to fall off, but he keeps at it, and little by little he learns how to handle the wheel, until by and by it would be much harder for him to fall off a bicycle than to keep it going. Habits, good or bad, become almost second nature to us. If, at a certain hour, when that hour arrives he will become quite sleepy—it is a matter of habit.

Some years ago a minister was walking home late at night in the city of Toronto. He met a man who asked him for direction. The smell of liquor was on the man's breath. The minister and he got into conversation, the former taking him home with him. It turned out that this man was a graduate of one of the great universities of the Old Country, a Chartered Accountant, who had held positions with large salaries, and was an accomplished musician who had played the organ in some large churches. Here he was, down and out. He had no home. He was sleeping at night on the straw behind the horses in a stable, and got his food as best he could. He told the minister that it was all due to drink; that when a very young man he had been persuaded by friends to take a glass of

ARGUMENTS ANSWERED

What are the reasons given as to why this agreement should not be supported? One says that the policy is still that of high tariffs. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: Where you have industries created and established under conditions where all governments have supported tariffs, you must not lightly lay your hand upon the structure. No man who has any regard for his country; its economic structure and its life would dare to destroy it as would be done if the suggestions made by hon. gentlemen opposite were adopted.

Someone has said that the agreement does not meet with the approval of economists. I have it on record from one of the most distinguished of the British delegates that the opinions of economists wash themselves out—there are just as many who think one way as another in connection with any problem with which they may have to deal.

Another says that we have closed the doors of the world's markets, that we have shut out the foreigner. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that that was one of the first things he was going to do if he got the British preference, and that is the one thing we have done. This great family council met together for the purpose of discussing empire preference, not foreign preference. We realized that we must trade with the world, but we realized also that our first duty was that which Sir Wilfrid Laurier enunciated, our duty to one another. This family gathering met together to promote trade to their own mutual advantage, as the leader of the opposition said he was aiming to do in 1923.

Another said that we were fixing rates for five years. In answer to this I need only repeat what has been said by the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe)—that you cannot draw up an agreement or any other contract unless you have a period of time in which to do what you agree to do. His only objection was that the agreement was not good enough to continue for five years.

KING'S FRENCH TREATY

The right hon. gentleman has

### W. C. T. U. Notes

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That is one of the sad things about this drink business; it takes some of the finest and most brilliant young people, robs them of their will power and their freedom, and makes them slaves. Many will say, "Oh, well! There is no danger of that happening to me. I can take it or let it alone—I know when to stop. I know when I have had enough. I will never be anything but a moderate drinker. I will never become a drunkard."

That is just what every drunkard in the world said when he began. No man or woman ever set out to become a drunkard. The trouble is that one of the first things alcohol does to a person is to impair his judgment, so that when one has had a drink or two, one is not in a position to judge as to how much it is wise or safe to take. The more one drinks the more reason and judgment are weakened. Then, as the habit gets a firm grip, will power is gradually lost, and the strongest men have become like mere babies in the hands of a great giant. One thing is certain—all the drunkards in the world were moderate drinkers to begin with. Every one of them started by taking one glass of liquor, possibly a glass of light wine or beer. They were told there was only a little alcohol in it—it could not possibly do them any harm. That was the beginning; the end is when a man or woman becomes a slave. What a fine thing it is to be young and free! Some of these unfortunate slaves to drink would give all they possess to have back the freedom they had in their youth. How foolish it is for one who enjoys this freedom to throw it away, or run the slightest risk of losing it!

QUESTION

How do men become drunkards—the slaves of the liquor habit?

National Temperance Study Course for Sunday Schools—Juniors

### The Big Fire

By MARY EADIE

Clang! Clang! Clang! Down the street raced a fire squad early one evening in the city of Townsboro. The people stopped short on the sidewalk to see where the engine was going. The automobiles came to a sudden stop at the intersections. Clang! Clang! Clang! came another engine, and yet another, with the hook and ladder trucks following close behind.

"It must be a big fire," shouted Jack Cowan to his chum. "Come on, fellows, let's go," and off down the street they ran. They ran as fast as they could, and it was a very breathless Jack who tried to say as he ran, "How—do—those—men—ever—put—on—rubber—coats—when the truck is going—at that pace?"

There was plenty of smoke ahead. The sidewalks were becoming crowded with people, and the question on every tongue was the same—"Where's the fire?"

Some said it was the library. Others said the High School, but it was not until the boys turned on King Street that they knew all about it.

It was the cathedral; the cathedral with the beautiful door and lovely windows! It was Jack's own church, and when he saw it in flames he stood quite still for a moment. Then he dashed forward. He wanted to help to save it, but the voice of the police officer in charge sounded loud and harsh. "Stand back—the roof will fall," he shouted.

More fire fighting squads arrived, and more people. The flames shot high through the roof, and Jack was sure the whole building would go. "Why can't they control it?" he said. "It was his church. He had had many good times there. Then suddenly there was a crash of glass, and the window Jack liked best of all was gone. It was the window with the picture of Jesus and the fishermen, by the sea of Galilee.

An old man stood behind Jack. When the window crashed, he uttered a loud cry, and all those near by heard him say, "Fire is useful under control, but it is a demon of the worst kind when it is uncontrolled."

An hour went by. Jack remembered about his mother at home, and he turned away long before he wanted to go. He did not sleep well that night. It seemed to him as though he could see the fire again,

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hear the roar of the flames, and smell the smoke. Several times he woke up, and he was shouting—"Save my church. Control the fire." At school next day, the topic of conversation was the fire. In the class, Mr. Forsythe, the teacher, allowed his pupils to talk about it. Jack told the class what he had heard the old man say: "Fire is useful under control, but it is a demon of the worst kind when it is uncontrolled."

Mr. Forsythe said, "Is that true, boys? What does the word 'control' mean?"

Tom Rogers was a very clever pupil and his answer was voted the best. Tom said, "The word 'control' means that the thing you want to keep in order is held under your power."

"What are the things that we should control?" said the teacher and the answers came forth: "Anything that is harmful—Control our tongues—our appetites—self-control."

"Very good," said Mr. Forsythe. "It is easy to control the tongue and the appetite? What if some one offered you a drink of liquor, and laughed at you when you refused to take it. What would you do?"

The boys knew that this situation would be a very difficult one. They did not answer hastily. Jack said, "Well, I would tell the one who offered it that it was harmful—that it contained poison. I would say—'Not for me!'"

Tom Rogers said, "I would say, 'No thank you; and stick to it.'" "Yes and every time that you refused, it would be easier for you," Mr. Forsythe said. Then he wrote on the board, the words, "Practice self-control."

"Suppose some one made you angry, would you shout angrily in return? What would you do?" "Control our tongues," came the answer.

"Who would be controlled by his tongue?" asked Mr. Forsythe. "There are other things that can be like demons besides fire," he continued to say. "Whiskey is like a demon when it gets control of a man. It first of all makes his head queer, and he loses his will power. Who would be controlled by a drink? Then after a minute or two of silence, Mr. Forsythe said, "Let us discuss it a little more."

The boys talked freely on the subject of alcohol, and then on the board there was written a decision, which the boys composed, and which each one, in turn, signed: "Because alcohol, as a beverage, will weaken my body, and my brain, it cannot help me to live at my very best. It will spoil my chances of success. Therefore, I make this decision, that I will not take it in any form."

Time passed by. The great cathedral was re-built more beautiful than before. The boys graduated from school and college. Different tasks claimed their attention. Some travelled far, while others remained in Townsboro, but they always remembered their old teacher, and the class room discussion and decision the morning after the great fire.

QUESTION

1. What does it mean to control myself?
2. (a) Why did the boys write down a decision.
- (b) What was their decision?

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