

be for his life a record of an occasion truly historic, and therefore, before I sit down I hope to make on behalf of the members of every delegation that presentation to which I allude.

I would only add this in conclusion. What we have done at this Conference is to build a foundation on which we and future generations may erect as fair and stable an edifice as lies in their capacity to accomplish. We have done that, and we have learned more than we have ever learned before of each other's difficulties and each other's point of view. It only remains for us to try and work out in practice what we have achieved on paper, and with that sanity and that forbearance which I hope will always characterize the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and then it may well be that the generations that come after, in speaking of us, may say indeed, "They builded better than they knew."

(Mr. Baldwin then presented on behalf of the delegations a silver salver to Mr. Bennett).

Mr. Bruce: Mr. Prime Minister, it is my privilege to second this resolution of thanks to you and the people of Canada which has been moved by the President of the Council. I associate myself, sir, with everything that he has said. Of you he has said the things that we all think, but unhappily we have not all his power of expression, and I would not detract in the slightest degree from anything that Mr. Baldwin has said in attempting to re-say it in my own language. I can assure you, sir, that we all recognize that your genial and forceful personality has been the main-spring of this Conference, and we all recognize that the success which has been achieved has been due in very great measure to the guidance you have given the Conference in presiding over all its plenary sessions. But your work has not stopped there because, after all, at a Conference of this character probably the best work is not done in the formal meetings, but in association outside, in informal discussions and deliberations. There, Sir, you have played a very great part, and we are all deeply grateful to you.

I would also like to be associated with the expression of thanks to your Government and to the people of Canada. We have been fortunate in having many opportunities of expressing to the people of Canada how deeply we feel the cordiality and the kindness of the welcome that has been extended to us all, and on this, the last formal meeting of the Conference, I would like to repeat what I think we have all said on many an occasion before.

Sir, there is one thing that we can say at the close of this Conference. We came here in a spirit of hope, and with a determination to succeed, and I think that we can say that we have accomplished all that we came here to do. We had the ideal that this Conference should not be one of bargaining between nations seeking for selfish gain, but that we would endeavour in our deliberations to make some contribution to the restoration of the prosperity of all parts of the British Empire, and in so doing make some contribution towards the restoration of prosperity throughout the whole world. In that, I think, we have succeeded. I do not consider the greatest importance of this Conference lies in the agreements that you have seen signed this morning. I attach the greatest importance to the spirit that lies behind them. I would remind the Conference that we have here carried through our negotiations on a basis of trying to promote mutual trade among ourselves. We have endeavoured inside the British Empire to effect our agreements and arrangements by the lowering of barriers and by the promotion of freer interchange of goods among ourselves. In doing this we have no desire to exclude other nations. We wish rather to see what we have accomplished emulated in a wider sphere. I trust that by the example which we have given here we have demonstrated that peoples of very varied interests, when they come together in a spirit of determination to succeed, can reconcile all differences, overcome all obstacles, by a spirit of mutual goodwill and by a determination to aid each other rather than to try to gain advantage. That, to my mind, is the great thing that has emerged from this Conference, and it is the thing that I feel we shall all recognize in the future as the greatest thing that we have achieved here.

Sir, I second this motion and I express to you, on behalf of myself, my colleagues and the whole delegation, our deep appreciation of your unfailing kindness and courtesy and of the hospitality which you on behalf of the Canadian people have extended to us.