

stead of being true to the pledges they had made, they reverted to the policy of Free-trade. As a Conservative, he was proud to congratulate his party upon having been true to their principles, and carried out faithfully the promises which they had made to the people on the hustings. The Conservative party had been true to the pledges it had made to the people in the cold shades of Opposition, and he was sure that nothing was more calculated to popularise the Conservative party than this Protective policy. The Government, in framing this policy, had carefully considered the different interests which it affected, and the returns from the different Provinces showed that the policy was acceptable to them. Since the inauguration of this policy, several industries which had been closed for many years, had been again set in operation. A few days ago he received letters from Montreal, informing him that new factories were about to be opened, thanks to the new policy. Messrs. Redpaths' refinery had already been opened. So little importance did the late Minister of Finance attach to that industry, that he never attempted, by his policy, to give it any encouragement. Instead of giving it encouragement, he drove it from Canada and transferred it to the Americans, who were coming into Canada and carrying away money which, under a proper financial policy, should have been expended amongst our own people. Among the new industries which were being started, he might mention a rumour in the city of Quebec that a very important tweed factory was likely to be established. He knew his hon. friend the late Minister of Inland Revenue might have his doubts about this policy. But that hon. gentleman, when he was elected in Quebec East, told the people that he would do all he could to help the ship-building interest, but when he came up to Ottawa, shortly afterwards, no doubt the strong Free-trade views of the hon. the late Minister of Finance prevented him from carrying out those pledges.

MR. LAURIER asked if the ship-building interest would not be fostered by the opening of Free-trade with France.

MR. CARON.

MR. CARON said he did not propose to discuss that point, but that point could fully be carried by a change of tariff, with reference to French wines imported here. What he asked was what the hon. gentleman had done to foster that industry. He remembered very well the brilliant promises the hon. gentleman had made, but he did not remember that these promises were ever carried out.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH : Are they being carried out now ?

MR. CARON said, in speaking of this subject, he believed that just on the eve of the election some letters passed between the hon. member for Lambton, and the French consul in Quebec.

MR. MACKENZIE : That was eight months before the election.

MR. CARON : That is not very long before the election.

MR. MACKENZIE : It is not on the eve of the election.

MR. CARON : If I remember aright, then, the letters may have been written eight months before the elections, but they were published almost immediately before the election in our papers. In fact, a few days before.

MR. MACKENZIE : They were published at the time.

MR. CARON : The hon. member for Lambton may have forgotten about the matter, as he generally does about every matter having reference to Quebec interests.

MR. MACKENZIE : I do not forget much.

MR. CARON said he had no doubt the hon. gentleman might have forgotten the exact date at which he wrote those letters. He (Mr. Caron) believed that the object of Protection was to promote the interest of the different classes of the community. He did not consider that the agriculturists of the Dominion could complain of the tariff. Speaking more particularly in the interest of the farmers of the Province of Quebec, he found, looking over the