

are above the least suspicion, either in private or public life. And when I say that our noble leader is the best leader the Liberal party ever had, I do not mean to disparage the great leaders we had before. The Hon. George Brown was a great man; the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was a great man; the Hon. Edward Blake was a great man; yet in my humble judgment we never had in this country a man with broader views, greater statesmanship or a better grasp of the affairs of Canada than the man who now leads the grand and noble Liberal party of Canada; and I believe that when he goes to England in a few weeks to represent this great colony at the coming celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, he will receive a greater ovation than any other man from any foreign country or British colony. As the Koh-i-noor is the brightest diamond, and sparkles more brightly in the crown of the Queen than any other diamond in it, so Canada is the Koh-i-noor of the colonies of Great Britain; and what is more fitting than that we should send the Koh-i-noor of colonial statesmen to represent Canada in the great Jubilee year of the Queen's coronation? Now, Sir, not one word of the praise I have given to the hon. gentleman is flattery; but from what he has accomplished during the last ten months, with the aid of the Liberal party behind him and the wisdom of the men surrounding him in the Government—men of ability, integrity and character—how could you expect from him anything but what is good and great and noble, in the interest of the country of which we are all so proud?

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a financial crisis in the affairs of Canada, I think we may say from a perusal of the daily press that the present is that time. A perusal of the daily papers from one end of the province of Ontario to the other, and also in the province of Quebec, will prove that many factories are being closed in consequence of the changes which the Government of the day have made in the tariff now before the House. Little wonder is it, therefore, that the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat (Mr. Macdonald, Huron), and who has for a long time been a constant advocate of free trade, should have seen fit to avoid the tariff measure which is now before the House and the country. The hon. gentleman has nimbly gone over the wide field of Canadian politics. He has dealt with the Manitoba school question, though what it has to do with the tariff is something I fail to understand. Then, in closing, he has endeavoured to make a comparison on the subject of honesty between the gentlemen who now occupy the Treasury benches and their predecessors. It must be a matter of regret to the hon. gentleman that they are minus one gentleman, and that is their representative in the county of Terrebonne, the

famous author of the "business is business" letter. When hon. gentlemen opposite boast that they have all the honesty of this country, I ask them to call to recollection their colleague in Terrebonne and fancy what a pity it would be had he been among those innocent nurslings, for fear he might have polluted some of them. Now, I cannot follow the hurried remarks of the hon. gentleman in reference to all the tariff matters upon which he has touched, but this I have to say, that in the ordinary pursuits of life we are accustomed to judge a man's general reputation by his special and particular acts. And if I can show by the statements of the hon. gentleman that he has been simply a wayfarer by the side of the path of truth, I need only say: By one statement judge of the others. The hon. gentleman said, and he defied contradiction, that the Liberal party had never been pledged to the removal of the duty on iron. I think I caught correctly the words of the hon. gentleman. True, it may be that, in the hon. gentleman's estimation, his declarations must have more weight than even those of the leader of his party; but if he will refer back to the columns of the Montreal "Herald" of the 23rd of June, 1895, he will find that the hon. the First Minister is there reported to have said in a speech delivered in Montreal:—

There are two articles which are the raw material of every manufacture in this country, and these are coal and iron. Are they free? If you have a revenue tariff, our object will be to develop the country, and under such a tariff all raw materials will be free.

Yet the hon. gentleman has told us that his leader never led the people to believe that the duties would be removed on iron. Coming down to some of the other matters on which the hon. gentleman touched, he endeavoured to show that this tariff was framed almost exclusively in the interests of the poorer people, that it was the case of the masses against the classes, and he illustrated his statement by a reference to the duty on silk. The hon. gentleman should know that there is nothing half so dangerous as a half truth, and while I do not imply any intention on his part, he certainly lapsed into a half truth. He said that the new tariff imposed a higher duty on silks. Well, Mr. Speaker, he is altogether in error. He will find that while in the old tariff there was a duty of 30 per cent upon silks, there is only a duty of 26½ per cent in the new. And so on, if you will compare the record with his utterances you will find that the both are very wide apart.

What is the question to-day before the people in this House, for after all is said and done, this House is in reality the people of Canada. We are here as the representatives of the people of Canada, sent here to obey their behests and do what