

reason. In the first place, it could not be done on economic grounds. As a general rule we find able men occupying the treasury benches, and they see that it would be impossible to carry out the extreme measures of protection, as a strict application of their policy would effect prohibition or embargo. On the other hand, in the case of the Liberals, absolute free trade would be unworkable.

The other reason that operates to prevent the carrying out of those principles is a very simple one. It is obvious that they could not do so, because in this Canada of ours, with its immense area and its divergent interests, it would be absolutely impossible for any party to get the support of enough members to carry out a policy consisting of either extreme free trade or total prohibition.

I was struck some time ago with some remarks made by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. He was attacking some action of the government, and alleging that the Liberals had not lived up to the principles of free trade. In his argument he produced some figures to show that the amount of free trade reduction they had made during the years they had retained power was negligible. As a matter of fact, he reduced it to a fraction of one or two per cent, and the effect of his statement was that the Liberals had been recreant to the promises they had made while in opposition. I thought his remarks were a wonderful commentary on many of the speeches we hear in this house when we are told that the country is going to the—I do not know if I should say, the devil, although that word was used this afternoon—but at any rate the country is going to certain destruction because of the lack of a high tariff policy. Thus we find the hon. member from my own province frankly admitting that, after all, the Liberals have made very slight reduction in the tariff.

I propose, sir, not to take a partisan view of the questions involved in the subject under discussion. I propose, as I have done before, and not without censure, to deal with an open mind with the issues before me as they would affect the destiny of Canada and, in the second place, the province of British Columbia, to which I profess second allegiance. I propose also to deal with the benefits, or loss of benefits, which might accrue to the district which I directly represent if the amendments were adopted.

With these few preliminary observations I would respectfully suggest, sir, that it is practically six o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Neill the debate was adjourned.

PENSIONS AND SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS

SENATE REPLY TO PROPOSAL FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate does not deem it opportune to appoint a special committee to act jointly with a similar special committee of the House of Commons to consider matters referred to that committee by the House of Commons relating to pensions and returned soldiers' problems, for the reason that they could not participate in the final decisions of that committee which must report to the House of Commons.

That the Senate recognizes the necessity of avoiding, as far as possible, the duplication of work on that committee and with that end in view the Senate has agreed upon the names of the senators who will later be asked to form the special committee to whom will be referred whatever legislation in this connection may reach this chamber. They are:—

The Honourable Senators Belcourt, Black, Béland, Blondin, Buchanan, Gillis, Graham, Griesbach, Hatfield, Laird, Lewis, Macdonnell, MacArthur, Rankin, Taylor and White (Pembroke).

The above named senators will, when notified, be pleased to attend the sittings of the special committee of the House of Commons.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I imagine it is the desire of the house to continue to-morrow with this debate, and in that event a motion will be required. Therefore I desire to move:

That standing order 28 be suspended on Thursday, 27th March, instant, and motion be then made that the Speaker leave the chair for the house to go into committee of supply.

Mr. BENNETT: It being understood that the supply will be the Department of Public Works.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: By unanimous consent.

Motion agreed to.

At six o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.