

figures show, I am bound to say as a Canadian that I have the very greatest faith in Canada. Although some may be pessimistic and may say that we are spending more money than we ought, I say that the time is at hand when Canada must go forward in her national life if she ever intends to do so, that if Canada does not put her best foot forward, and Canadian statesmen do not seize the opportunities at hand, we shall find that by parsimony and bad economic policy we shall have let chances go by that may not return again for many years, and thereby inflict lasting injury upon Canada and the Canadian people. As a young country we must realize that to a very great extent our history is before us. We are on the threshold of being a nation. We have yet to be opened up vast areas of land which have not yet been touched by the plough; and if we are to grow into a nation, we must provide all the facilities necessary to encourage immigration to our shores, and when that immigration does come, we must see that it is properly taken care of. So long as our expenditure is wise and prudent, so long as it is honest—and honest it is without a doubt under this government—I am satisfied that it will redound to the credit of the government and of Canada.

This session has been called, Sir, I understand, largely in connection with the tariff. The tariff is a great question—perhaps the greatest and most far reaching question that this House has to deal with, undoubtedly the one that affects more largely the Canadian people than any other. Sir, when we come to consider that tariff we must consider it, I take it, solely from a non-partisan point of view, solely with a view of taking care of the various industries and the various other interests of the people of Canada. We have had a propaganda carried on for many months by the Manufacturers' Association. That propaganda has been carried far and near, it has been carried on by means of both pamphlets and meetings and these manufacturers say one and all: We must have the tariff built up, we must have such a tariff practically as will absolutely protect us from everybody else. That is what the manufacturers ask. On the other hand the farmers, through the various farmers' associations, the Dominion Grange and others, have their propaganda also, and it is this that so far as the government is able it must let down the bars to as great an extent as possible. The population of Canada is composed principally of manufacturers and agriculturists and those dependent on those two great branches of industry. Therefore, it is, I think, that no one would willingly, knowingly advocate a policy which might bear too heavily upon one class or upon another and therefore the government should approach this question of the tariff with the greatest possible caution and the people both in the province of Ontario and in the other provinces should realize this fact that the

Mr. PARDEE.

duty is upon this House to enact a proper measure and that in order to secure a tariff measure that would be good for a country such as ours, with our diverse interests, the manufacturers in the east and the farmers in the west, the duty is laid upon the government to hold the scales equally balanced as between the various interests and that the measure can only be a measure of compromise in order that it may benefit the greatest possible number of people. But, Sir, when approaching this question we ought to bear in mind the fact that Canada is essentially an agricultural country and that therefore so far as is possible the claims of the agriculturists ought to be predominant.

Mention is made in the speech of the question of new electoral laws. There is no doubt about the fact that both sides have made laws and there is no doubt that both sides have broken the laws that have been made. It does appear to me that there is no man who does not desire, if possible, to have clean elections waged in order that an honest expression of the opinion of the people of the country should be given at the polls and that their representatives should truly represent them both in this House and in other Houses of Parliament. It has occurred to me that it does little or no good for us to say: You have done so and so, and for the other side to say to us, You have done so and so. It does not appear to me that the 'tu quoque' argument any longer applies, but it does appear to me that it is the absolute duty of men in high position, men occupying seats on the floor of this House by their example, by their acts, and by their words to show the country that in their opinion clean elections must be had, righteous elections must be held and by their example and by their precept they will show to their followers that nothing else will be tolerated either by themselves or by their party. They must show henceforth, if we are to go on as we ought to, so far as our popular representation is concerned, that they will not in the least degree countenance one single bit of dishonesty in elections but will on the other hand frown it down and in the event of dishonesty or corruption in elections being shown will not desire to represent the constituency in which such conditions have prevailed. These, Sir, are my views. I think it will do little good for either side of the House as I said to use the 'thou also' argument. It does not appear to me that the time is now proper to do that, but it does appear to me that the time is very proper as I said before, for every man in this House, for every representative man in the Dominion of Canada to so frown down electoral corruption that it may in the future be something that has passed and gone. We must remember this fact that if it is continued it means that we will have an array of labour against capital, that you have capital against labour, wealth