

think we will all concede that Mr. Bernier was at all events an excellent smoker.

What shall I say for Mr. Mills, who was appointed from Ontario? Had a guessing competition been indulged in, had men conversant with trade and commerce in Toronto or any city in Ontario been asked who would probably be the appointee from Ontario, I venture to say that not one in a thousand would have suggested Mr. Mills. What special fitness had Mr. Mills for such a position? He had been for twenty years principal of the Agricultural College, but what connection had he had with railway or transportation questions? None whatever, and the reason for his appointment will always be enshrouded in mystery. I can only suppose that it was a question of throwing out a sop to the agricultural interests in Ontario by alleging that Mr. Mills, having been president of this college, would be supposedly in touch with the farmers of Ontario. Now, Sir, that is the position of the so-called railway commission, and it remains to be seen what the people of Ontario will think of that commission; by their fruits I suppose in time to come they must be judged.

There are gentlemen sitting on the back benches opposite who will not dare to take the stand that has been taken by the premier and the mover of the address, that the tariff as it stands to-day is a fit and proper tariff. I see, for instance, the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie); he will not go back to Guelph and say that this is a perfect tariff. There are in that city some very large manufacturing concerns, and if that gentleman is properly reported in the public press and in private conversation, he is not satisfied with the tariff, and when he again appeals for election this fall, I am sure that he will not stand on the platform in Guelph and say that the tariff as framed by the government is correct in its entirety, and that he is prepared to abide by it in every particular. Then, too, there is the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dymont); he has been persistent in asking the government to make changes in the steel and iron duties, and why not? For the simple reason that the great industry at Sault Ste. Marie requires further protection, and that gentleman, I am bound to say, has time and again begged and prayed the government to make changes in the tariff. Then, too, a meeting was held at Amherst, in Nova Scotia, at which the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan) was present. He is a staunch supporter of this government, and what was his utterance? Not that this tariff was a perfect tariff but that he was a pronounced protectionist, and wished to see the industries of Nova Scotia benefited by an advance in the tariff. When you come to single out these gentlemen, every one of them, talking at home, favours an increase in the tariff. Let us take the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Ross):

only a few weeks ago a large deputation of carriage makers, including Mr. Tudhope, of Orillia, a large carriage manufacturer, interviewed the government, and asked for changes in the tariff in relation to that great industry. There are sitting to-day behind the government a large number of members who go home to their constituents and assure them that they favour increased protection and are urging the ministers to give increased protection, yet not one of these gentlemen has the boldness to stand up and favour increased protection. What does it all mean? Surely these gentlemen have some regard for their political future. I believe the answer lies in this, that the government has given assurances to their supporters that at the close of this session a commission is to be appointed to inquire into the tariff workings of the whole Dominion. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen. If it is done, it will prove that this government are trying to dilly-dally with the electors of the Dominion, holding out in the Northwest, where protection feeling is perhaps not so strong as in the cities of the older provinces, the theory of a moderate tariff. Thus they are endeavouring to blow hot and cold in the various parts of the Dominion. Let us look at the speech delivered by the right hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) at Toronto just prior to the time that it was proposed to hold an election. It will be remembered that the government a few months ago had finally decided to take the cold plunge. There is not a doubt of that. Every member will remember issues of the 'Globe' day after day placarded on the front page with cartoons which were labelled 'Finger posts of prosperity.' These gentlemen were holding nomination meetings in every part of the Dominion, and there was every sign and evidence that an election was impending. Why was it not brought on? Rumour says it was because of the failure to float the Grand Trunk Pacific bonds in the old country. Be that as it may, it goes without saying that the government had decided to bring on a general election. In pursuance of that policy, and in order to stiffen up the backs of their friends in Ontario, the right hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce was despatched to Toronto, and there made his strong campaign speech. First he dealt with the sins of commission and sins of omission of the Conservative party in the past, and after that he endeavoured to build up a strong case as to the prosperity of the country, which he said was due to the course of these hon. gentlemen since their advent to power. I wish to say, and I challenge any gentleman who may follow me to dispute it, that this government has not placed one clause in the customs tariff law of this country that has increased its prosperity or advanced the interests of any manufacturing concern in this Dominion. The right hon. gentleman's strong appeal, however,