

important matter. He was desirous of having the opinion of the right hon. member for Kingston, and of all the gentlemen who followed him in the House. He desired that they should affirm their position before this House, and the country, on this important question. He had heard their opinion with respect to agricultural interests and manufacturing interests, and it was about time they should declare their policy with respect to the coal mining interests of the Dominion.

MR. MITCHELL said that hon. gentlemen should express an opinion on this question, as initiating a principle upon which the interests of the country would in the future depend. He would vote against this amendment for this reason: He was not a Protectionist in the true sense of the word; but he was this much of a Protectionist. He thought that the interests of this country called for the consideration of readjustment of the tariff with regard to our position towards the United States. While he was prepared to take up the whole question of considering how they should readjust the tariff, which was necessary to maintain the expenditures required for the carrying on of the business of the country, he was not prepared to take up, piecemeal, items and individual interests and protect them against every other interest in Canada. He wished to be clearly understood in this matter. He came from a county which had every interest in securing free trade, manufacturing nothing save lumber, which was sold, not on this continent, but in Europe; and no system of protection that this House could devise would tend to promote the interests of the people he had the honour to represent. He considered the question from higher and nobler grounds than of interest. He was not going to deal with the interests of this country and he cared not how this might effect him in the coming contest next summer, for he was bound to look at what the interests of Canada were as a whole, and this was what he was going to do. He proclaimed his intention in order that there might be no misunderstanding regarding his views on the great issue which lay between the hon. gentlemen who advocated Protection

on the one hand and those who advocated Free-trade at any cost on the other hand,—the gentlemen who occupied the Treasury Benches and who advocated Free-trade and the sacrifice of Canada's interests to any extent, and the hon. gentlemen, on the other side of the House, who advocated Protection. He was not answerable for the course taken by the regular Opposition. He was propounding the views which he himself entertained on the question, on which he was at all events going to appeal to his constituents, and while their interests lay in the direction of having as few taxes as possible on imports, being not manufacturers, yet looking to the necessities of the revenue, he prepared to represent their wishes and views, and say that, "The interests of Canada called for a readjustment of the tariff, so that the 22 or 24 millions required were raised." He was sure they would be willing to endorse the sentiments he uttered and to have their representative place upon record his opinion in respect of what might or might not be for the interest of Canada in the readjustment of those imports which were necessary for the maintenance of the Government and the public works of the country. The views that he entertained on this matter were these: He was not a Protectionist, he was a Free-trader in the abstract, but they had to put on a certain amount of duties to raise the 22 or 24 millions required to maintain our public works, to meet the indebtedness created, and to provide for the necessary legislation and the other public service, requisite to carry on the business of Canada; and he was prepared to support—no matter from which side of the House it came—the principle of so readjusting the imports and taxes necessary to raise this revenue as to encourage and promote, within our own borders, the manufactures which would keep within our own borders our own people, and create a home market for the products of our farmers, and give employment to the sons and daughters of the people of this country. This was the doctrine which he laid down. Hon. gentlemen opposite might call him a protectionist, or free-trader, but he was in favor of adopting a policy which would

MR. MACKAY.