

Mr. MEIGHEN: I apologize, for if the hon. member is losing those, he is getting nothing else.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask that there be no interruptions without the consent of the hon. gentleman who has the floor.

Mr. KYTE: I shall have to begin this paragraph all over again:

So I say we cannot have any immoderate or high tariff for the reason, first, that it tends to exclude that healthy element of fair conditions, namely, foreign competition. Secondly, we have in Canada a territory of wide extent. We have a portion of Canada newer than the other portion, a more predominately agricultural country, newer to manufacturers and agricultural development, and consequently the advantages of tariff do not accrue as yet.

The right hon. gentleman having regard to the election that was coming on kept his eye upon the prairie west. He went on:

Upon account of these two reasons we must always have in this country nothing more than a moderate tariff under any conditions whatsoever. That will be the purpose of the revision under the principles clearly set out and enumerated by the Minister of Finance to which we adhere. On that policy I appeal to hon. gentlemen who have something great or small at stake in this Dominion, yes, I appeal to citizens, men and women, who have nothing of this world's goods at stake, whose only concern is the well being of their native land.

Not a word about high protection there, but just a moderate tariff. The hon. member for West York, then Minister of Finance, spoke as follows:

Our policy calls for a thorough revision of the tariff with a view to the adoption of such reasonable measures as are necessary to assist in providing adequate revenue, to stabilize legitimate industries and to encourage the establishment of new industries essential to the proper economic development of the nation, to develop to the fullest extent our natural resources, to specially promote and increase trade with the Mother Country and sister dominions, to prevent the abuse of the tariff for the exploitation of the consumer. As a means of raising revenue the tariff should be so adjusted as to place the chief burden on those best able to bear it. Articles of luxury should be heavily taxed through the imposition of customs and excise rates.

Real Liberal doctrine, which he forgot after.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Oh no.

Mr. KYTE: He went on:

Food commodities and other necessities of life, not produced or manufactured in Canada, should, if taxed at all, bear, only such imposts as are necessary for revenue purposes.

Tariff for revenue, you will observe:

Those produced in Canada should be subjected to such customs duties only as may be necessary in the general national interest to be determined after strict investigation from time to time.

Well, on the 5th of June, 1919, Sir Thomas White, then Minister of Finance, speaking on

the budget, made a promise of a general revision of the tariff, and a statement citing this promise was issued by the government on December 15, and quoted with approval by the member for West York in the speech just referred to. Then in the speech placed in the hands of His Excellency at the opening of parliament on the 14th of February, 1921, this paragraph is to be found:

My advisers are convinced of the necessity for revision of the customs tariff. In order to secure the most complete information a committee has conducted an extensive and thorough inquiry, and has secured the views of all parties and interests in every province. The hearings necessary for this purpose have now been completed, and the conclusions founded thereon will be submitted to you in due course.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I looked very carefully for the changes in the tariff which were brought down by the hon. gentleman at the same session in which that speech was read by His Excellency the Governor General, and these are the changes that I find:

Changes implementing the trade pact with the West India islands, which had been ratified by both Houses and assented to.

Changes with a view to securing a more efficient carrying out of the provisions of the dumping provisions.

A further change having regard to the valuation of goods imported from foreign countries whose currencies have greatly depreciated.

Mr. Speaker, after their boasted intention to revise the tariff, and after the expense of a tariff commission going throughout this country, the hon. member for West York, like another valiant general of whom we read in history, simply marched his army up the hill and marched them down again. The Tariff Commission of the late government in 1920 was an experiment in what is known as belling the tariff cat. The up-to-date version of a well-known household fable would run somewhat as follows: The race of hard working, industrious mice had suffered much from the depredations of the tariff cat. The cat would move secretly. It would pounce upon them and carry off their sustenance unawares. It wasn't fair. The mice resolved to consider their case. They called a meeting of the cabinet, they complained of their lot, and they abused the cat. Something had to be done; but what? Then a young mouse thought of a plan, "Let us reduce the tariff, or in other words, tie a bell on the cat. The bell will ring. It will give warning of the cat's approach. This will enable us to escape." All the mice squeaked "Hurrah!" But one mouse that had grown old during many years of nesting and dozing in the