

He was so full of the subject that I think he could have given us a very interesting speech for two or three hours more. His speech was very interesting as far as it went. On this subject, as on any other, my hon. friend is always interesting, and if he does not think he can be interesting, he does not talk at all. This matter of the tariff was one of the issues at the late election, and I do not think it profitable on our part to be discussing whether it could be made out that there was this or that inconsistency. What we unite about the House and the country will know at the next meeting of parliament. I think the scheme which will then be submitted will not only be sanctioned by the Liberals of the House of Commons but also by this Conservative House. I understood my hon. friend to say that there are some matters as to which tariff changes, if they are to be made at all, might as well be made now as at a later date, but the policy of the government is not to do this work—a very important work it is—by piece meal. We hope to be prepared to act upon it next session, and then by a general measure affecting all descriptions of goods which are to be dealt with. During the elections it was never suggested that we would be prepared with the tariff measure at this session. It was never suggested that we had ready a cut and dried tariff then. Those who understood the subject quite knew that that was out of the question, Sir John Macdonald and my honourable friend dealt with the question in 1878. They had no cut and dried tariff ready, but they went to the electors and succeeded in convincing them that a protective system was far better than the system which then prevailed, and that it would result in prosperity to the country. The people having been convinced by the arguments of my honourable friend on that subject, elected a large majority to support that policy. Then the ministers set about making inquiries and investigations, and having interviews with men familiar with the subject, with experts, and prepared a tariff framed after all the information they were able to gather. Their tariff was such as satisfied their friends, and our tariff, made as it will be after similar investigations, will, I hope, satisfy, not our friends merely, but the country likewise.

I feel the great difficulty that there may be in dealing with all these questions by a Liberal government because the Liberal party has so few followers here. Probably such a state of things never existed in any country before with representative institutions, that four-fifths of the members in one chamber belong to one party—and that only the remaining fifth or less than one-fifth belong to the other party. I have felt that difficulty, and every one must have felt it, but I would not have consented to come into this House—I would not have felt it right to avail myself of the honour of having a seat in this House—and I feel it to be an honour—if I did not believe that the House would be found to be workable even with a Liberal government. There were various reasons which made me reasonably confident of that. One is that there are a great many points on which we are at one. Though Conservatives and Liberals, as represented in this House, differ and our parties differ on some important points, yet we are in accord on a great many points of prime importance. One thing I rejoice to know is that we are all heartily loyal to our Queen. I do not think that anybody doubts that there is such loyalty in those who represent the Liberal party in this House any more than they doubt the loyalty of those who represent the Conservative party. Then, further, I rejoice to know that we all alike are attached to British connection. I add to that another attachment that I am sure we all have, and that is to this Canada of ours. I believe we all, whether Conservatives or Liberals, love this Dominion. It is our home. Canada is the fatherland to many of us, and it is the home of our children and descendants, and we hope it shall be their home for generations untold. We are all interested in its welfare, we are anxious about its welfare, and will not consciously act, any of us I am sure, in a way prejudicial to that welfare. Those are grand points, points of prime importance, and they are encouraging when I consider the difficulty that the Liberal party is under in this House. We have also in common large interests. The case is not one in which the material interests of the Liberal party are one way and the material interests of Conservatives the other way; not a case in which the measures which promote the interests of the Liberals are