

prosper in 1895 and 1896 and continued to prosper on account of the protective policy of the Conservative party. As I stated before there was no change in the tariff, except a paltry change of not more than one half of one per cent which did not effect any of the commodities which come into the country. At the present moment they refuse to change or alter the tariff where changes are absolutely required in order to prevent several industries, especially the woollen industry, the oldest in the country from being wiped out. In my own county two woollen factories have been closed up for nearly a year, one of them in Almonte, owned by the Rosamond Co., the second largest woollen manufactory in this country, and this factory will continue closed until the tariff is amended. They cannot meet the competition of goods which are sent into the country for the purpose of being slaughtered. An amendment of the tariff will not make this country what he complains of in regard to the United States the home of factious combines and anarchy. That is certainly a complimentary remark to make of the people of the country to the south of us, an industrious people. I have never heard of anarchy in that country and although it may be the home of factious combines there is legislation against combines in the United States and that legislation is being enforced there and could be enforced here. What we want in this country and what we will have when the people again speak out is the preservation of the markets of our own country for our own manufacturers; that is the determination of the people of Canada. They will not be content to remain a purely agricultural and fishing community; they want various industries like other countries. The young men of the country want to engage in different industries. We can manufacture as cheaply, we can furnish as skilled labour as any other land, our people are as industrious as any other people, our resources are as great or greater than those of any other country on the face of the globe. Why is it we have not the opportunity of going forward and increasing the manufactures of our country? When they have an opportunity the people of this country will speak out and say that they will have our industries protected. This is the feeling from one end of the country to the other. Even the agricultural section of the Northwest Territories and Manitoba is in favour of protection of manufactures; my own province to a man is in favour of it, and if the right hon. gentleman had not led his followers to believe that the present tariff was all that was necessary for the protection of the industries of Ontario the government would be swept out of existence when they went to the poll. It is earnestly to be hoped that the people of this country will come to their senses in the election which is near at hand, and that they will punish

false promises and broken pledges and will reward the men who speak truly to them, the men who carry out the promises they make.

Every one knows that the Conservative party of this country are in favour of protection and in favour of a closer union of this country and the imperial authorities; we are imperialists to a certain extent. There are in our ranks no members with the same sentiments as those of the hon. member who represents Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and some of his followers. I judge from the remarks of that hon. gentleman that he is against a closer union between this country and the mother country and that he is in fact looking for the separation of Canada from the empire. I do not know that in this he is much in advance of the right hon. gentleman who leads the government, whom I have heard state that we must look to the future, that the day may come when the pear will be ripe and will drop from the parent tree, when we will bloom out into a nationality of our own and become a new union or a new United States in this section of the continent. The sentiment of our race is entirely different. We are for a closer union between this country and the motherland. I admired the right hon. gentleman when he said to the people of the motherland: Take us to your councils so that we may become part and parcel of the empire; let us be represented in the councils of the empire.

That is my sentiment and I believe it is the sentiment of the people of this country. It is the sentiment, I believe, of the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright), only he intends to carry it farther, not to confine it to imperial interests alone, but to correct the faults and mistakes that were made over a hundred years ago and bring about a closer union between all the Anglo-Saxon peoples, between the United States, Great Britain and Canada. That is quite Utopian, I think. There is no prospect of achieving that end. The only prospect within view is the one of bringing about a closer union between all parts and portions of the British empire. That is the policy of all empires on the face of the globe. All empires striving for existence are controlled by this policy. It is the policy of the Russians, of the Germans and of the French. Their policy is one of concentration and of the advancement of the race in every portion of the globe. Let us then do all we can for the purpose of having closer relations between this and all other countries in the empire. I, perhaps, have spoken at sufficient length upon this question, but I feel strongly in regard to it. I feel that the party in power at the present moment have not performed their duty to the people of this country. An enormous amount of taxes has been levied