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that the question of refined sugar does not affect the West Indies?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, both affect the West Indies; but the question at issue is the raw sugar. The hon. gentleman knows that; if he does not know it, he ought to know it; but I suppose it is possible that he does not know, because his leader told us last night that under the tariff he had ruined the West India commerce.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, it was under the tariff as we found it and left it. All we did was to reduce the duty on the refined sugar, the protection to the refiner, 14 cents on the hundred pounds. We left the duty on raw sugar just as it was, and it is on the raw sugar that we are giving a preference to the West India planters, which the hon. gentleman admits will be a boon to them, but not to them alone, because he considers that it will revive a trade which will be profitable to the maritime provinces and to all parts of the Dominion. Now, I have spoken on sugar, as the hon. gentleman asked me to do, and I trust I have made myself plain.

Mr. BENNETT. Tell us about the English postage you announced at Toronto.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The English postage is something on the same line; it is coming. The hon. gentleman has alluded to that in the House before. He spoke, I think, of myself as having been treated somewhat unfairly, as he supposed by the Postmaster General. Well, I have not felt very badly over that matter. I am told by people who were present that when the announcement of that reduction in English postage was made, it was well received by the audience. In fact, I was at the meeting myself. I am told that the announcement was made in clear and stentorian tones, and that the whole Massey Hall audience heard it. Being myself an eye witness, I can say that the statement was made in all good faith, and that the effect on the audience was electrical. It showed me that, although the Postmaster General has perhaps been delayed in the consummation of his wishes for a short time, as we have been in our desire to confine our tariff preference to the British Empire, yet the heart of the Canadian people was with him in that Imperial-Canadian movement; and when that comes about, then the hon. gentleman can have the satisfaction of knowing that still another act has, through the instrumentality of the Canadian Government, united still more closely and bound more firmly together the motherland and this the greatest of her possessions.

I have spoken of the postage, as requested. If there are any other matters on which

hon. gentlemen would like to hear me speak, I would like to oblige them, though I must close my remarks, for I certainly will not continue them beyond the dinner hour. Let me note, in conclusion, that hon. gentlemen make serious charges against us. They charge that we have not fulfilled a single promise that we made to the people—that we have failed in all our pledges. Well, Sir, that is a serious charge. Is it true? Do the hon. gentlemen mean in earnest to make a charge of that kind? After the figures I have given, taken from official records, will they say that this Government have not been true to the pledge they gave to the people of this country to reduce the burden of taxation. In the light of the figures given by the Finance Minister, and dwelt upon more in detail by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, will they not say that in many of the branches of the public service economies have been practiced and retrenchments made? We promised that there would be increased prosperity, and do they mean to say that increased prosperity is not in the country to-day? The Prime Minister, two or three years ago, when standing before a distinguished audience of commercial men, after having listened to a vast array of statistics read by the ex-Minister of Finance, in order to convince them that they were prosperous, said to them: "If you put me and my party in power, we will not need to use this long list of statistics to prove that you are prosperous, for you will feel it in your pockets." Is that true? Hon. gentlemen have said that it was by an accident that we attained power—referring, I suppose, to a question that had created a sharp division among the people of Canada—a question involving religious feelings, feelings which are the deepest in the hearts of us all, and which ought to be recognized with charity and forbearance, and with a disposition to give others the same privilege of liberty of conscience that we demand for ourselves. When those feelings were stirred up and aroused in the country, and a great deal of discontent was excited among the people, the hon. First Minister said: "I believe that if I were entrusted with power, I would be able, by different means from those employed by our opponents, by means that would commend themselves to all the fair-minded men of this country, to bring about a peaceable and happy solution of this question." Where is it to-day? Was the promise kept? I say that if there was nothing else that stood to the credit of the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government, that alone entitles him to a renewal of the confidence of the people of this country. What more did we promise?

Mr. BERGERON. The coal duty.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. We promised that we would wipe out the Franchise Act. We are at it now, though op-