

men who advocate these views what are the duties which they wish us to impose in order that we may make these things at home, we discover that they are not very frank; sometimes they are only willing to give us their views on that matter in confidence, and not always then. I think, Sir, I may say that while there is a widespread, a universal sympathy for home industries, while every man in this Dominion ought to be proud of our home industries and desirous of giving a preference to our home manufactured goods, still there is in all these matters a question of cost; and when the manufacturers come to us, as they sometimes do, and desire to have duties which will go up as high as 50 per cent, 60 per cent, and even 70 per cent, on the cost of the goods, then I say there will be many in this country to question whether or not we can afford to carry protection as far as that. There are extremes of that kind to be avoided. Then there are extremes on the other side. There are people who, relying upon the sound principles of free trade, sound enough in their proper place, are disposed to carry them to a point which takes no account of the conditions. They seem to adopt a theory, and they say: You must carry out that theory regardless of what may be done elsewhere: Fix your own tariff policy, and never mind what is done elsewhere. Well, Sir, I am sure we cannot go as far as that. Commercial questions are every day occupying more attention in the field of public affairs. There is great rivalry among the nations; nay, there is commercial war, and in a contest of that character it is not enough to have a good old theory; you must understand the methods whereby your opponent plays the game, so that you may be able, if necessary, to modify your views.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACLEAN. You are coming to it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am delighted to have my views endorsed by my hon. friends opposite. It is not only necessary that we should take account of the way our opponent plays the game, but once in a while it may even be necessary, in exceptional circumstances, to meet him with his own tactics. If that doctrine meets with

the approval of my hon. friends opposite I am not disposed to complain. In a country of such vast extent as ours, a country of great territory, it is inevitable that there shall be wide differences of opinion on questions of this character. There will be conflicts of opinion, and there will be conflicts of interests. There will be the extreme view on the one side, and the extreme view on the other. We hold that it is the duty of the government not to yield to these extreme views on either side, but to endeavour to reconcile these views, in the hope that we may bring about a common action which the whole country can accept—a compromise, if you care to call it such. We appeal to the people of the different sections, each one to yield up something in order that we may reach a ground upon which all can act in harmony.

Our manufacturing friends have expressed a desire that the tariff should be kept out of politics. Sir, how are you going to keep the tariff out of politics if some of our manufacturing friends insist upon duties so high that they are sure to antagonize great masses of the people? Especially should we consider these things when we observe what is happening in our great west. The seed that has been sown in the last few years is bearing fruit. When we see immigrants flowing into that country from all parts of the world, we cannot fail to observe the signs of the times. The power of control is passing from the east to the west. Great as is the prosperity of eastern and central Canada, greater still is the prosperity of the vast region lying west of Lake Superior. Ontario and the maritime provinces are losing members, the west is gaining members. That great population in the west is going to be a greater power in the future than it is at present. These western people, producing articles that depend for their value on the open markets of the world, would chafe under a system of high protective duties, and would unquestionably organize against it. Is it not better to meet these people in a spirit of compromise, and ask them to join us in a moderate tariff, rather than, by the adoption of a high tariff policy, array them against the manufacturing interests of the east? I say it would be in the interests of the manufacturers themselves to take account of these