

plains that attitude. The Winnipeg Free Press says:

In some of his western speeches Mr. King is reported to have said that the Progressives were "in the nature of outlaws in parliament," and that they "are simply helping to make the west ridiculous."

I suppose, sir, that that is the reason why the Minister of Finance has turned from the deep sea to the devil of the Tory party.

I have also here some of the statements that have been made in the past by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart), who, this afternoon, in a sort of jocular way, amused the house by his address. We all remember his famous statement about the "death knell of protection." He was quite willing to be its executioner. I see my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) in his seat. Looking through Hansard I find him designating protection as "bunk." Possibly he might translate that classic word for the benefit of his followers who were so anxious to get at its meaning this afternoon.

Let me also quote some words uttered by the deputy speaker. He used this classical language in the days when we were in the old museum:

I believe that the trouble that exists to-day can be directly traced to the protective tariff that obtains at the present time.

Then, sir, listen to this expression of opinion. The hon. gentleman was then opposing a sales tax of 3 per cent; he afterwards supported one of 6 per cent. On May 18, 1921, he said:

You cannot expect to have the perfume of roses while you have a polecat under the table.

As I say, we had at that time a sales tax of 3 per cent. I wonder how many polecats are under the table to-day.

An hon. MEMBER: Who said that?

Mr. McGIBBON: The deputy speaker. Let me complete the quotation:

Neither can you expect to have fair methods of taxation imposed by a government whose policy is dictated by and wholly in the interests of the big interests of the country.

Then, sir, I have one more quotation which is of some significance considering that we have behind the ministry a fair number of so-called Liberal Progressives. I do not know whether they are Progressives or not, but the only thing that to my mind qualified them as Liberals in the past was that they seemed to be willing to give away their country and their policy and everything else to retain office. The then member for Last Mountain (Mr. Johnston) had this to say:

I may say that in 1916, shortly after this policy—

That is, the farmers' platform.

—had been adopted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, every candidate in the federal field in Saskatchewan was circularized by the secretary of the grain growers' association there and asked whether, if elected, he would be prepared to support the policy as laid down by the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

That, Mr. Speaker, was practically a policy of free trade. To remove any doubts on the point, let me quote the platform, which, I take it, in the past was supported by all those hon. members sitting to your right, sir, who now are supporting this protectionist budget. This farmers' platform was drafted and issued by the Canadian Council of Agriculture at Winnipeg on November 29, 1918:

A.—By an immediate and substantial all-around reduction in the customs tariff.

I wonder if our friends opposite are getting it in this budget.

B.—By reducing the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, and that further gradual, uniform reductions be made in the remaining tariff on British imports that will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years.

I wonder, sir, if they are still supporting that plank.

C.—By endeavouring to secure unrestricted reciprocal trade in natural products with the United States along the lines of the reciprocity agreement of 1911.

I wonder if there are any men in the west to-day who, even if they got the chance, would accept that policy and submit the farmers of this country to the tender mercies of the great trusts of Chicago and other centres in the United States. I venture to say that if a vote was taken not one of them would stand up in favour of it. Here is another plank of the farmers' program:

D.—By placing all foodstuffs on its free list.

Here is another plank:

E.—That agricultural implements, farm and household machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, gasoline, illuminating fuel and lubricating oil be placed on the free list and that all raw materials and machinery used in their manufacture also be placed on the free list.

Now, sir, if we placed everything from Great Britain on the free list and were getting everything from the United States that was to have been given to us in 1911, we would have the pure free trade policy, that, I take it, everyone of these so-called Liberal Progressives pledged themselves to support in the past. In view of this, is not the Minister of Finance putting a severe strain on their free trade faith when he asks them to come out and support his protectionist budget? It