

floor of the house. There never has been an attempt on the part of this government to negotiate a treaty, there never has been an attempt on the part of this government to deal with the tariff, but that we have been told by the opposition that we were going to ruin Canada. It has been only within the last two or three years that they have ceased crying blue ruin. I challenge any hon. member opposite to deny that assertion having been made by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and by my hon. friend who is now leading the Conservative party.

Mr. BENNETT: I deny absolutely that I have ever preached blue ruin in this country; there is the answer.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I will accept cheerfully my hon. friend's denial, but it is about on a par with his statement to-night—at which I smiled—that had he been in the house at the time he would have voted against the Australian treaty, but that he was not prepared to-night to do so.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We hear a great deal about the condition in which Canada finds herself, but we have not heard a word during this present debate about the wonderful prosperity of the United States. That country has increased its tariff in order to protect its farmers and its industry, but not a word has been uttered upon this occasion as to the prosperity of that country. What has happened? There is more unemployment to-day in the United States than there is in Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: Not at all.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Oh yes, my hon. friends have admitted it. We have heard much in the past about the prosperity of the United States, brought about by an increase in their tariff, and that was offered as an example to the Canadian government as to what should be done in the interests of the Canadian people. That country has increased its tariff, and in view of that action it was pointed out how much had been gained by our mighty neighbour across the line. But what about this present debate? We have not heard a thing about the United States. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the prosperity of Canada during the period this government has been in office has never been excelled in any period in her history. I make that assertion without fear of contradiction.

An hon. MEMBER: The hon. minister should go down to the maritime provinces.

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I read the press of the maritime provinces, and what does it say? That the maritime provinces now are enjoying unprecedented prosperity. I know my hon. friend will not say that.

An hon. MEMBER: I know the conditions prevailing there.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend has said that the implementing of the Duncan report has performed a wonderful service for the maritime provinces.

Mr. HANSON: But that report has not been fully implemented.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): There is one thing yet to be done, and when that is done my hon. friend will admit that the maritimes have never received from any government the treatment which they have received from this government. In reply to my hon. friend's assertion that conditions in Canada have not been prosperous; that the splendid situation in the United States has been built up through all the generations during which they have enjoyed protective tariffs—that is his argument—and that our internal trade is suffering because we do not build up protective tariffs, I am not going into details; I simply leave the question to the good judgment of the house. We are at the present time suffering a depression in common with every other country but not to the same extent that it has hit the other countries with whom we are doing business.

My hon. friend spent about twenty minutes in discussing the advisability of being very careful in regard to treaties. He will not deny that if a treaty is to be brought about, there must be concessions on both sides. Both countries expect to get something out of a treaty, otherwise it would not be negotiated by either. I do not think that can be contradicted. We would not make treaties except for the purpose of mutual benefits, and naturally each country is extremely anxious to receive the outmost advantage out of any treaty made with the other. I know full well my hon. friend will argue that there would not have been much wrong with the Australian treaty if we had raised the general tariff. How would the raising of the general tariff affect the situation at this time of which my hon. friend is complaining? What is the complaint? It is that as regards natural products such as butter, beef, wool, mutton we are allowing the importation of those commodities to the detriment of the agricultural community. I ask him the question: had we accepted his suggestion and had we raised the