

MR. CARON said, after the protracted debate already had on the tariff, not too long, however, considering the importance of the subject under discussion, he felt more than ordinary hesitation in asking the attention of the House to the few remarks he deemed it his duty to make. He felt, moreover, especially unfortunate in following so many hon. gentlemen who had discussed this question with so much ability and eloquence. His excuse for taking up the time of the House now was that, owing to the gravity of the question under debate, he considered it the duty of every member to place upon record his views, so that his constituents might know if he had faithfully looked after the interests confided to him. At the outset, he must say, that this tariff should be framed, not upon the taking into consideration of the interests of one Province alone, but it should be framed on a consideration of the interests of the whole Dominion, and of all the political institutions of this country. Who ignored what a difficult task it had been for the statesmen of Canada to organise, under different political circumstances, this great Confederation of ours? It was a difficult task, because various interests had to be reconciled, and then, as to-day, it became necessary to consider the various interests of the several Provinces which were coming into the Confederation. If Confederation, so far, had been a success; if the statesmen of Canada, belonging to both sides of politics, had been able to organise and work successfully that great scheme, it was due, in a great measure, to the concessions which were mutually made by the different Provinces, concessions without which it would have been impossible to carry out Confederation. He hesitated not to say that the difficulties which Canadian statesmen had to meet to-day in preparing this tariff were very nearly as great, if not as great, as those just referred to. To-day, like twelve years ago, it was necessary to harmonise all the various interests of the several Provinces, and he believed that, if a proper spirit of concession were shown by the representatives of the various sections of the Dominion in discussing the tariff, it would have a great success in the country, taken as a whole. This trade question was agitated long before

the hon. the Finance Minister brought down his Budget speech. After a fair trial of the late system of Free-trade, the people had decided to introduce the Protective system, and, at the same time, they condemned the policy of the late Government. That policy had not produced the effects expected from it, and it was only after having given it a fair trial for many years that at last the people of Canada determined upon introducing a new policy, and this policy had been approved by the greatest majority that any political party had ever obtained in this country. This brought him to refer to the financial system of the late Government. Gentlemen now occupying the Opposition side of the House, as far back as 1872, decided that Protection should be introduced into Canada, and that without Protection Canada could not prosper. He saw sitting opposite several of his hon. friends with whom he differed in politics—with whom he had fought more than one political battle; but with whom, nevertheless, he was happy to believe friendly sentiments existed outside of politics. He remembered when his hon. friend the late Minister of Inland Revenue was addressing a public meeting in the city of Quebec on political matters, when he explained, with his usual eloquence, the platform of the *Parti National*, which he and others were organising. On that occasion the hon. gentleman laid it down as one of the planks of his party that this country should adopt a Protective policy. He remembered well, on another occasion, when that hon. gentleman delivered one of his most eloquent speeches in the Quebec Parliament, it was in defence of the great principle of Protection. He (Mr. Caron) might be mistaken, but he believed one of the principal reasons those hon. gentlemen had lost the favour of the people was, that they had abandoned the Protection plank of their platform. It was to be remembered, however, that when those hon. gentlemen advocated that policy they were not in a position to carry it into effect. They were a small minority in the Province of Quebec. But if there was one thing more than another which shook the confidence of the people in them, it was the fact that, when they came to occupy the Treasury benches, instead of being true to their policy, in-