

tion. It shows that they were brought up in different schools. The one is the product of the methods adopted on King street, Toronto; the other is the plain, old-fashioned, product of the school of North Bay, Ontario.

If this new reciprocity treaty is to be stable, and if it represents a declaration of public policy on the part of the Government, then it will have the hearty approval of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. If it is to be in force during the continuance of the war only, and is terminable at the will of our enemies, or at the moment we accomplish their defeat, or if it was enacted, as it would appear to have been, as a purely party and political expedient, it is to be condemned by every right-thinking man in this country. This is not a time to play fast and loose with such a matter as our tariff. These matters should be dealt with by open, frank and proper methods. It appears to me that it was never intended that this Order in Council was to represent the real economic policy of the Government upon a vexed issue; I believe it to be a pure party and political measure. If the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen) desired for the people of the western provinces, whom he represents in the Government, that they have permanently the advantage of the American market for their wheat and flour, he would have suggested and insisted that the Order in Council be based upon, not the War Measures Act, but the Customs Tariff law, or better still, that the amendment to the tariff be made on the floor of Parliament by the Minister of Finance when he was delivering his annual budget. I am not saying that if this Order in Council is to be effective only during the period of the war it will not be of some benefit to the western producers of wheat, but I do say that it will be more beneficial to them if they know that it is to be permanent. You could not encourage the western wheat producer to grow wheat under this Order in Council if he knew that it ended on the 30th day of June, 1917, if the war should then end. You must have the element of permanency in anything to ensure the full measure of benefit, and particularly in an Order in Council of this character.

Mr. LALOR: Is the hon. gentleman aware that wheat is 27 cents a bushel to-day higher in Winnipeg than in Chicago?

Mr. MACLEAN: If the hon. gentleman says that is a fact I accept his word. I am not endeavouring to argue that phase of

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

the question at all. If the price of wheat is 27 cents a bushel higher in Chicago than in Winnipeg then I say, let the western farmer feel that he is likely to reap that advantage permanently.

Mr. LALOR: I think the hon. gentleman misunderstood me; what I said was just the opposite. I said that in Winnipeg it was 27 cents higher than in Chicago.

Mr. MACLEAN: Well, I suppose my hon. friend will then say to his friends and the Government that the passage of the Order in Council was a foolish thing. Now, they give a further reason for the passage of this Order in Council and I want to read it to the House. This is a most astonishing thing as it appears to me:

And whereas it is desirable at a time when a special appeal is being made for increased agricultural production to supply grain and food stuffs to Great Britain and her Allies which now include the United States of America,—

It would appear that the Order in Council was passed to encourage the production of wheat and flour in this country so that we might help our ally the United States. That is what that portion of the Order in Council which I have read seems to suggest. I suppose it was inserted for that purpose. If so, it is deceptive, because it does not truly set forth the facts. The United States is a great producer of wheat, as we are, and our Allies, Britain, France and Belgium look to the United States as they look to us, to exert our utmost efforts to see that sufficient food products are grown this year, next year and the following year after that, whether the war so long continues or not, in order that the needs of the Allies, present and future, may be met. The Order in Council is based in part on the theory that the rich and powerful republic to the south of us might need our wheat and our flour, and as our ally and for her possible succor we should encourage the production of wheat in this country. That is a proposition I cannot subscribe to. The United States has just entered the war. She has dedicated her life and her fortunes, everything they have, and everything they are, with the pride of those who knew that the time had come when they were privileged to spend their blood and their might for the principles which gave them birth and happiness, using the exact words of President Wilson