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and that my right hon. friend was wrong, and that days afterwards it is to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to defend him, then I say my sympathies go out to the leader of the Opposition. It had to be left to the hon. gentleman's son to come to his rescue, and therefore I say my sympathy throughout is with the hon. leader of the Opposition. I would say to him, if he will not consider it impertinent, coming from one so much younger and with so much less experience, that he has my hearty sympathy and the sympathy of my colleagues and friends on this side in his unfortunate position. I might suggest to the loyal party—that is, the party which has had loyalty for its stock-in-trade for a great many years—that loyalty to their leader would not be altogether out of place, and that they would retain at least some of the esteem of their political opponents and of the people of the country if they presented, outwardly at least, better indications of loyalty and harmony in their own ranks.

The hon. leader of the Opposition, if I may be pardoned for saying a few words on this subject, with the skill which comes from long experience, attempted, and I suppose, perhaps, succeeded to some extent, in placing some utterances which I have made upon the tariff in an incorrect position. I do not wish to imply that the hon. gentleman in any way misrepresented what I said, in the sense of giving out as my utterances what I did not say; but with that skill which long parliamentary experience has given him, he adverted to my remarks in such a way that a casual reader would naturally imagine that I had placed myself in an illogical position. I wish for just a moment or two to say a few words on that subject. The House will recollect, Sir, that when we brought down our tariff to this House, hon. gentlemen on the front benches of the Opposition denounced it in unmeasured and most vigorous terms. There is no member of this House who will not remember how my hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) stood up, and with that dramatic power which he has so successfully cultivated, held up his hand and called heaven to witness that he stood in this House as the champion of Canadian workmen, who, by this improvident and incompetent Government, were going to be turned out of house and home. That is the position he took. He lectured us for hours upon the utter destruction which this radical and revolutionary tariff was going to bring upon this country; and there was not one indication in the position he took, at least at that time, that he in any way approved of the tariff we submitted or of the lines of policy which we had indicated. That was the position of these hon. gentlemen then. But what is their position now? Why, Mr. Speaker, the tariff has gone into effect and has been shown to be a great success. And when I stand before this House, I am in the judgment of every

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man who hears my voice and of the business men of this country, when I say that the sentiment of the people, the matured opinion of the people, is that the tariff has been a success.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). Yes, and these hon. gentlemen have found that out. They have found out that their predictions have not been verified. What did they attempt to do when they were in office? For many years, the cry of high protection, extreme protection, more protection and more taxes, whenever anybody was in trouble, was the policy which these hon. gentlemen followed; but you will remember, Sir, that a few years ago the people began to cry out against that policy. Hon. gentlemen opposite found, when they summoned Parliament together, that they were getting letters from their followers and supporters saying that this policy of protection had gone too far. What was the result? It was that they were compelled to hold an inquiry upon the subject of that tariff and did hold a long and careful inquiry. If I recollect aright, the hon. ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace) and the late member for Brockville (Mr. Wood) were the two gentlemen who were sent around the country to make inquiries, and when these hon. gentlemen came back, the late Government brought down a tariff which, according to the despatches from Ottawa, given out by them was going to be reformed upon lines favourable to the consumer. That was the policy which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) was forced to adopt by the attitude of his followers in Parliament and by the inquiries which the gentlemen associated with him in the Government had made. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) came down to Parliament with that policy. He was strong enough with the Government and the House of Commons to carry that policy, and I apprehend that he was even strong enough with the Senate to carry it, but he was not strong enough with the manufacturers, and the result was that he was forced in this House to modify it, item after item, until the mother of that tariff would not have known it at all as it went out of the House. His intentions were good certainly. He intended to revise the tariff upon lines favourable to the consumer, because that was the sentiment of the country, but he found he could not do it, and he failed to do it; and instead of coming down to the House and admitting his failure, he was forced to admit that the tariff he had brought down contained clerical errors. Explanations of that kind, Mr. Speaker, do not deceive anybody. We all make mistakes; we all start out to do things which we find we cannot do as we intended, and the hon. gentleman would have earned more the respect of the community if he had