

formation, they sat down and conferred together, having in mind the promises they had made to the people, that they would reduce the tariff, that they would reduce the burdens of taxation on the people, that they would lessen the burdens of the people, and that in addition they would endeavour to carry out their promises, and in doing so they would not act unfairly to any class of the community. To-day in the resolutions laid on the Table there is a fulfilment to the letter of the resolutions adopted by the great Liberal party in this city in 1893. There is reduction of taxation. Hon. gentlemen opposite cannot deny that, though in the classification adopted certain articles that in our judgment under the old tariff should have borne a higher rate than they did, have been raised and other goods that have borne higher rates than they should have borne have been lowered; nevertheless in regard to the resolutions laid on the Table, I make bold to say that even with the additions made in that tariff, after all there has been on the whole line of dutiable articles, with exception of spirits, tobacco, ales, and a few other articles, a reduction in the whole of schedule A, comprising the dutiable articles. That, Sir, has been done, although perhaps not in every case perfectly satisfactory to men whose business might be affected by the particular item. That is not to be expected from any government. I have pointed out, that notwithstanding the time taken by the late Government in the tariff revision they made, forty amended resolutions were laid upon the Table twelve days after their tariff resolutions were submitted, and thirty or forty more were amended in committee before these resolutions finally passed this House. It is not strange if it should be found, that there are some who think that this tariff touching upon their particular line of industry, may not have been framed in such a way as to render to them the justice that they, in their judgment, think should be rendered. We claim no infallibility in this matter, and it is possible that such a contention may be true; but any gentleman or any number of gentlemen are at liberty to approach us, and we will endeavour to hear them, and to consider their case, and while we can make no promises to them, they shall have a cordial hearing and we will bring our best judgment to bear upon these matters. Therefore I say we have carried out our pledge.

We pledged ourselves to promote freer trade, if it were possible, between all countries, and especially Great Britain and the United States of America. Our American friends do not seem disposed at this present moment to enter into freer trade relations with us. We do not complain of that, and we have no right to complain; but we have done what was in our power. We have taken a course that does mean freer trade relations between the United Kingdom

of Great Britain and Ireland, and this country, and in that we have fulfilled another pledge that was given to the people of Canada when we adopted the resolution that forms the trade platform of the Liberal party.

The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) spent a large portion of his time in reading extracts of utterances of public men upon this side of the House, with reference to tariff matters. He read them as if they were pledges solemnly given, and gave individual instances in which they must be carried out. He read, that the First Minister had declared, that he was in favour of free trade as it is in England, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) wanted to charge, that pledges were violated unless there was at this very session an entire wiping out the customs duties upon articles upon which they are now levied, and a consequent raising of taxation in another way. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) knew full well, that while the First Minister expressed his admiration for the fiscal policy of Great Britain, and while he admired that country as leading in the van of nations, foremost for freedom of speech, foremost for freedom of the press, foremost in trade matters, and while he drew his inspiration from that grand old country; yet the First Minister said in the same breath: that recognizing the conditions that prevailed in this country, he did not expect, nor would he lead the people to expect that for many a long day we could adopt exactly the policy that prevails in the motherland. The ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) quoted, as if my hon. friend (Mr. Laurier) had declared, that if we ever came into power all the manufacturing industries of Canada would be wiped out of existence. No such statement was made. True, the principle of protection was denounced; true warfare was declared against that system, but the ex-Finance Minister will look in vain for any declaration, that other than a revenue tariff was to be introduced in this House; and as a necessary consequence of a revenue tariff there is protection to a greater or less extent bound up in it as an incident of it, but not as a principle thereof.

The hon. gentlemen opposite took protection as their principle, and if any revenue came from it, it followed as an incident; but we on this side of the House take the ground, that the proper principle to act upon is, that we should raise the requisite revenues to carry on the Government of the country, and if there was any protection involved, as protection must be involved, it followed as an incident and not as a principle. There, Sir, is the distinction. The policy of hon. gentlemen opposite as defined by the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) is, that they were bound to give to industries in this country such support, by way of tariff resolutions and customs duties, as those industries demanded. The position on