

in the full sunlight of prosperity now, a prosperity which, I believe, will increase, and the keynote of which prosperity is the effort this government is making to carry out the pledges and promises which they have given to the country. Notwithstanding all that was said by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), notwithstanding all the piles of figures we listened to from the member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), I believe we can show conclusively that we have honestly, earnestly and diligently carried out our pledges, with all proper consideration for the vested interests that have been established for eighteen years and longer, in the shape of industries, and which we should have killed if we had jumped into what has been called an extreme free trade policy. I listened with a great deal of pleasure to the speech made by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and his remarks were so pertinent and so forcible that I should like to read them for the benefit of the House to-night—

Mr. BERGERON. Oh, don't.

Mr. DOBELL. I shall give the substance of them.

Mr. WALLACE. Read them.

Mr. DOBELL. I am sure that hon. gentlemen opposite forget them, because I noticed that when the hon. Minister of Customs began his heavy fire one by one of these gentlemen opposite retreated from the Chamber. I saw the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) lean down and hide his head as the Minister of Customs poured out his artillery on gentlemen opposite. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) could not stand the charge. Shot after shot was fired by the Minister of Customs, against the arguments of gentlemen opposite, and so withering was the fire that when we looked across the floor, there were only three gentlemen present, one the member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy).

Mr. WALLACE. How many remained on the other side.

Mr. DOBELL. A good number remained here to hear the eloquent and truthful words of the Minister of Customs.

Mr. BERGERON. There were seven or eight, and they were sleeping.

Mr. CLANCY. I was safe, because they were blank shots.

Mr. DOBELL. At all events, they made the gentlemen on the other side of the House retreat. I should like to mention a matter which is of considerable importance to the future of this country.

Mr. WALLACE. You have not given us the speech of the Minister of Customs.

Mr. DOBELL. To oblige the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) I will give him the sub-

Mr. DOBELL.

stance of it in order that he may mark and learn. The Minister of Customs told us that while hon. gentlemen opposite charged us with jeopardizing and injuring the manufactures of this country, we were actually stimulating the manufacturers to fresh exertions to improve their machinery, to produce a first-class article, and to economize in everything, so that our manufacturers would be able to compete, not only with the manufacturers of this country, but with the manufacturers of England and the world. And if Canada wants to take a proper position in the world's competition, if she wants to trade with other countries, then, she must get rid of all the barriers and all the hindrances to a free and open trade with all the world. I believe that Canada could live and her manufacturers could thrive under such conditions, but we must give them time. We all know that if you grow certain plants in hothouses, it would be folly to put them out on a frosty night. So, you must give our manufacturers time to get accustomed to less protection and less pampering. They must be trained up to stand alone, and to be free and independent, and then will our industries be established on a firm basis. I hope the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) is satisfied with the theories of the Minister of Customs, which I perfectly believe in.

Mr. WALLACE. Sweet are the uses of adversity.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Are you finding it so?

Mr. WALLACE. I am pretty well content.

Mr. DOBELL. I was about to say a word in reference to the permanent lighthouse at the Traverse, and in that connection I shall read an extract from a letter which I received only this week from a practical ship-builder in the old country. He says:

As an old Canadian trader, I am deeply interested in everything that pertains to your splendid country. I quite agree the longer you can keep your navigation open the better it will be for the best interests of Canada. I am of opinion that with the ice bridge at Cap Rouge and the effective lighting of the lower St. Lawrence by permanent lighthouses (not light-ships), it will be possible to navigate the river as far as Quebec with safety until the month of February. Indeed, as you know, we have offered to prove this by one of our own steamers, commanded, of course, by a most experienced captain in the trade. The port of Quebec would thus be raised at once to a position of great importance. . . . As you are aware, my firm have decided to open direct steam communication between Quebec and London this coming season, and for this purpose we are setting apart four of our large steamers in order to provide a weekly service.

That letter is from Mr. Hine, of Maryport, who is the owner of nineteen steamers, many of which have been trading in the St.