

This fiscal revolution has another bearing. While it did not kill reciprocity, it did kill in my judgment the policy of mutual preferences within the empire. May I remind the Government that one of the things they did last year was to pass the West Indian treaty. What has happened to that treaty as a result of the fiscal changes in the United States? The Minister of Trade and Commerce said to the delegates from the West Indies: We will help you by giving you one-fifth advantage on sugar over the rest of the world. President Wilson comes along and says: Little Canada away to the north is going to give you one-fifth advantage on sugar. I will do more than that for you, I will give you a ninety million market, fifty per cent off, and free sugar within three years. What becomes of your preference then, and the charge against the Opposition that we wasted time last session? That West Indian treaty is a piece of waste paper to-day. Their sugar will naturally go into the United States. Take the case of wool. What preference can we offer to Australia upon her wool, which is her staple product? The fact is mutual preferences within the empire are only possible so long as the other countries of the world remain protectionist and Britain stands for free trade. Great Britain shows no sign of deserting free trade, but the moment the other countries of the world desert protection there is no possibility of mutual preferences within the empire. And the fact that my right hon. friend advocates mutual preferences within the empire, shows that in his trade outlook he is a benighted protectionist.

I want to say a word or two in regard to another matter which is of vital and immediate moment to the people in the part of the country come from, and through them to the whole of Canada, a question which is raised in an acute form by the rearrangement of the United States tariff. I refer to the question of free wheat. If I wanted to impress upon them the importance of it, I should call their attention to the fact that the Argentine Republic has already availed itself of the United States' offer, and this I take to be a most vital matter for the Government of this country. I am surprised that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister had nothing to say upon this subject. If we want to increase the prosperity of this country we cannot do it by putting a paragraph in the Address referring to our boundless resources. As my right hon. leader said: you have to develop these resources and you will only develop them if you show yourselves acute

[Mr. Michael Clark].

enough business men to contend with your competitors in the Argentine and elsewhere for the markets of the world. I put it to the Government that the Argentine Government have already shown that they know the value of the offer of the United States and have availed themselves of it. What is the position of the Government of Canada? Echo answers, What? I wonder if they know their own position on this matter. The fact is that they have two positions. They had one in Manitoba six weeks ago; there is no doubt about that. Mr. Harvey Simpson, the Conservative member of the Legislature, was no doubt in communication with the most prominent member of this Government before he dared to put that resolution in favour of free wheat upon the table of the Manitoba House. That resolution has been carried by the political friends of the Government and carried unanimously in a Conservative House.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD: Did Roblin vote for it?

Mr. CLARK: Presumably, Sir Rodmond Roblin must have voted for it, because it was carried unanimously. There are some other friends of my hon. friends opposite who came down from Alberta, and there is no possibility of them successfully denying the fact that they came also voicing the opinions of Western Conservatives as well as Western Liberals, to ask for free wheat. But this Government is a government of dissolving views; not only a government of dissolving views, it is a government of double views because the same Minister of Public Works who said to the Manitoba Conservative legislators: ask for free wheat; he apparently said to the legislators from Alberta: don't ask for free wheat. In the presence of such a peculiar spectacle I am surprised that the Prime Minister did not give us some light upon this subject, and I certainly think we ought to hear from the Government and hear from the Government at once: whether in this country we have not statesmen as acute-minded, or at any rate as resolute as the statesmen of the Argentine Republic. Personally I cannot understand the Government hesitating a moment in this matter; that is to say, if they are actuated purely by a desire to do what is best for Canada. Many arguments that were used in regard to the reciprocity pact of two years ago do not apply to this matter at all. This question is not now part of a large general agreement; it cannot be argued that it interferes with our fiscal independence. We simply have to take the