

The Address

(Mr. Lapointe). In that speech the Prime Minister declared that the principles of his party, of this broad Liberalism, were identical, or, I think, he used the words, "were the same in aim though not the same in name" as those believed in and supported by my hon. friends to my left, that there was a difference only in affiliation—no difference in principle at all, and that he confidently relied upon them to co-operate with him in order to put into effect what he proposed to put into effect during this Parliament.

Now I am going to quote some of the principles or rather the promises upon which some of the hon. gentlemen opposite have been elected to this House, upon which hon. gentlemen in the Government have been elected to this Parliament. Perhaps I should start with the speech of the hon. Minister of Justice. I do not think he will repudiate the pamphlet which I hold in my hand, because on its face there is a very excellent photograph of himself. It is printed in French. I think I had better attempt the translation for the reason that my translation will be more nearly correct than my pronunciation of the original. The pamphlet reads:

Sir Lomer Gouin is a partisan of moderate protection. He is in favour of the Laurier tariff, and he does not believe that Canada ought to be converted into a sort of dumping ground for the goods of other countries, but on the contrary, by means of moderate protection of our national industries, not only the interests of manufacturers who have their capital invested, but those of the working classes who depend on those interests, ought to be protected.

Now it would be difficult to state more clearly, more definitely, or more firmly the principles that we frankly stood for in the last campaign, than they are here expressed by the hon. Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin).

I pass from the enunciation of the tariff position of hon. gentlemen opposite, as expressed by the Minister of Justice, to the position taken by the hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Mitchell). In a document to which I previously referred he first of all dealt with what he called the dilapidated condition of the nation and then with the tariff. I have just read from the pamphlet of the Minister of Justice a statement to the effect that he stood for moderate protection which he said was the Laurier tariff, that he stood indeed for adequate protection, which he said was the Laurier tariff. I now come to a definition of the Laurier

[Mr. Meighen.]

tariff by the hon. gentleman from St. Antoine, as follows:—

The Laurier tariff means a tariff that will keep Canadian manufacturers in business and guarantee them a fair profit, foster new industries, while at the same time giving a square deal to the consumers.

Whoever heard a clearer definition of protection? Then he goes on:

In 1896 Sir Wilfrid Laurier was face to face with a problem of industry similar to the one we are faced with to-day, when there are hundreds of thousands of our workmen out of employment. What did he do? He created a tariff board, and sent it through Canada, inquiring into the effect of the tariff upon local industries and conditions. We would do the same to-day, and be guided by the best trade experts available. We would devise means of encouraging and stimulating our industries, means which would extend old industries and bring new ones to Canada, just as the Government of Sir Lomer Gouin at Quebec made Quebec the centre of the world's pulp industry and asbestos industry, we would help to build up our cities, give more employment to our workmen who, would in turn provide a better market for the produce of the farm. Thus the farmer would see created for him right in his own country, the greatest and surest market of all for his own produce, not subject to Fordney tariffs and the whim of statesmen of other nations.

This is a definition of the tariff principle which the Prime Minister declares is the same in aim, the same in principle as that of hon. gentlemen to my left, by which declaration he hopes to lure and entice them, if not to his side, at least to his support.

As regards the railway problem—I will not deal with it now, but it would be too bad not to read the first sentence of the speech in that regard:

My stand on the railway question—

Says the hon. member for St. Antoine.
—is just as clear and pronounced as it is on the tariff.

It will be noted that in this declaration that I have read, a commitment is made that the Liberal party, if returned to power, will appoint a tariff board and will be guided by its results. The Prime Minister, however, is committed on platform after platform, not only not to provide a tariff board, but to do at once what he is pledged to do in the declarations of the Liberal party. I have before me his commitments in that regard. I would like this declaration, for example, to be read in association with the tariff pronouncements of the Speech from the Throne. He states that the Prime Minister preceding myself, Sir Robert Borden, in the month of August, 1920, had stated that before revision there