

is entirely in sympathy with them, that he understands the difficulties which confront them, that his particular views upon the tariff must not necessarily prevail if they embarrass the government. so long as the schedule in which his industry is represented is maintained in its entirety. This class of manufacturer is always prepared to give credit to the Conservative party for laying broad and deep the national policy and building up the industrial life of this country. He is prepared to rely on the genius of that party to adhere to the principles which they have consistently maintained since 1878 and he believes that, no matter what may happen in the political world, he can rely upon the Conservative party showing a fidelity to those principles which they have ever represented since 1878, notwithstanding at the same time he supports the government that seeks to undermine his industry. I fancy that hon. gentlemen opposite who may possibly disagree with me in the short review I have made of the subject will agree with me to this extent, that it is in the interests of Canada, and also in the interest of both political parties, that we should have a fixed, or reasonably fixed, fiscal system assured, and a continuous system that would lead to the investment of capital and to the building up of our industrial life. There should be a fixed policy. We are only on the eve, so to speak, of Canada's possibilities. Canada is just emerging from her immature youth. She is emerging into a condition of virility, of strength and of development, she must soon take her place amongst the industrial nations. Hundreds of thousands of people from abroad are seeking her shores and making Canada their homes. Capital from the United States and from Europe is being invested in the many millions within this Dominion, not only in developing our natural resources but in building up our manufactures, and in otherwise contributing to establish this country upon a stable basis. We must be fair, by our fiscal system, to the capital which is thus being enlisted, to the obligations which are thus being contracted. But if we are to experiment from year to year with the different fiscal nostrums which are being propounded, then I

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

venture to say that in the near future we will find an interruption to this measure of prosperity which we have been fortunate enough to enjoy for so many years. The progress which Canada is making along industrial lines is more or less due to the fairly continuous fixed fiscal policy which we have had. Since 1878 both political parties, in their legislation have been committed to the maintenance of a productive tariff within the Dominion of Canada, sufficiently adequate to assist in the building up of our industries and in the development of our natural resources, and yet since 1878 there has scarcely been a period when my hon. friends opposite have not sought to supersede that tariff which has manifestly been productive of so many advantages to this Dominion. It is unnecessary for me to point out that after the promulgation of that tariff and of our laying deep and wide the foundations of our industrial life, the Liberal party, not believing in the doctrines embodied in that policy, had recourse to their friends in the United States with a view of establishing commercial relations which would supersede that policy. For many years they laboured with the doctrine of continental free trade, of commercial union, of unrestricted reciprocity, and down to their accession to office in 1896 they were uncompromisingly committed to the establishment of free trade as it was in England, yet upon their accession to office in 1896 the very first act of this government was to enter into an alliance, offensive and defensive, holy and unholy with the manufacturers of the Dominion, and to maintain, with the little experimentation which has been indulged in from that time to the present, the policy which was established by the Conservative government in 1878. I have always admired the ingenuity of the Liberal party in thus allying themselves with the manufacturers and receiving their influence, their support and their good money for election purposes, and yet at the same time carrying on, apparently successfully, a propaganda throughout the Dominion which led the rural part of this Dominion to believe that they were thoroughly in sympathy with free trade and that the millennium would arrive when this noxious tariff, productive of all