

people of Canada. I suppose they do not claim that they possess all the wisdom of the earth. They are not infallible or impeccable, but they are at least an earnest, honest, patriotic, progressive body of men who are giving their time and the best of what is in them for the true development of our country, and the people of Canada appreciate it. Well, Sir, some of these gentlemen opposite have been rehearsing their campaign speeches, and we were told by the hon. member from Wentworth (Mr. Smith) and the hon. member from West York (Mr. Wallace) and others, that the miserable and disreputable race cry that was started in the province of Quebec last year, had some considerable influence upon the elections. I do not know what influence the race cry may have had, but I want to say that that miserable and disreputable race cry was started in a very small corner of the province of Quebec, namely in the Star newspaper office in Montreal. Perhaps it had no influence in the province of Ontario, I hope it had none, but hon. gentlemen opposite are the best judges of the effect which the race and religious cry was expressly intended to have there. Now, Sir, as to the amendment before the House. In the words of an eminent authority, the language is delightfully vague. It says:

That, in the opinion of this House, the welfare of this country requires a pronounced policy of adequate protection and encouragement at all times to the labour, agricultural, manufacturing, mining and other industrial interests of Canada.

That, in the opinion of this House, the adoption of a policy of mutual trade preference within the empire would prove of great benefit to the mother country and to the colonies, and would greatly promote the prosperity, unity and progress of the empire as a whole, and that the present time, when the Commonwealth of Australia is laying the foundation of its fiscal system, is particularly opportune for taking prompt and energetic steps towards the furtherance of this object.

So there is to be high protection for the manufacturers, free trade for the farmers; riches for everybody, everything you want and if there is anything you want and do not see all you have to do is to ask for it.

This House is further of opinion that equivalent or adequate duties should be imposed by Canada upon the products and manufactures of countries not within the empire in all cases where such countries fail to admit Canadian products and manufactures upon fair terms, and that the government should take for this purpose all such available measures as may be found necessary.

When the leader of the opposition was speaking to this part of the resolution, he declared that he would not approve of bringing it into effect against the United States and, of course, it does not apply to Great Britain, or any part of the empire. Therefore, as 87 per cent of our whole trade is with Great Britain and the United States, this part of the resolution would be prac-

Mr. HUGHES (King's, P.E.I.)

tically a dead letter. It would appear as if the resolution has been so worded that hon. gentlemen opposite can go throughout the country and take whatever meaning they like out of it. It is the hope of these hon. gentlemen that all those who are in distress and oppressed with difficulty, and under any affliction of mind may gather around the leader of the opposition and that he may become their prince in the cave of Adullam, and in this way he may perhaps gather around him a party sufficiently strong to some time in the distant future return him to power. For the reasons I have given, Mr. Speaker, and for many many others, I am a supporter of the present administration. I am both an old Liberal and a new Liberal, because I do not think there is any difference between the two. The hon. member from Toronto (Mr. Brock) told us that the Conservatives were not ashamed of anything in their past history. He is a very fortunate man indeed who has no skeleton in the family cupboard. I do not think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) has been a close reader of political events in the years 1891 and 1873 and 1849, or else he would know, that if all the skeletons in the political cupboards of the Conservative party were revealed, they would astonish even the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Brock). For the reasons I have given I am a supporter of the Liberal party, and I shall be obliged to vote against the amendment. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members for their patient hearing.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I do not propose, at this stage of the debate, to go into the figures connected with the budget. They have been elaborately dealt with by members on both sides of the House. I wish merely to confine myself to a few observations which have occurred to me as I listened to the debate, which I followed most patiently and carefully. The most striking feature of the debate, so far as I have been able to see, has been the declaration on the part of a number of Liberals, that while they are free traders in theory, they are still willing to support protection in practice. I must say that I have listened with regret to many declarations on the part of Liberals that they are willing to accept a protective tariff.

Now, it seems to me that if there is one thing which is desirable in this country at the present time, it is that we should get down to clear definitions. I think it is particularly desirable that we should have a distinct and authoritative statement as to whether the tariff which we have is a protective tariff or a tariff for revenue only. I think, Sir—and I am sure that you and hon. members will agree with me—that it is not a good thing, either in the interest of the country or in our own interest, that we should either practice any deception on the