

leader of the opposition said also in that province :

So far as our policy is concerned, we are not afraid to avow it in the east or in the west. It is the same everywhere. Our policy is that of adequate protection to all legitimate industries in Canada.

My hon. friend is more than right when he says that he has strong support for that view, which I venture to say will ultimately become the view of all those who desire the advancement of our country. He has strong support for it on the treasury benches where, as stated by my right hon. friend, people are free to entertain any opinion they like, and his mission is to bring them all together, and out of that chaos to evolve something which is satisfactory to the country. My hon. friend the present member from Maisonneuve, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine), whom I am glad to see in his place this evening, stated there that if any man had anything to complain of in respect to the tariff—and his speech was reported verbatim in one of his own organs—or if any legitimate industry could establish a claim for greater protection, he was prepared for his own part to confer with his colleagues in the cabinet and give them all the protection they wanted. The speech from the Throne does not refer to tariff matters specially. Sir, I claim in contradiction to what was said by my hon. friends who moved and seconded the address, that there is a feeling at present throughout the country, of which we would have been glad and the country at large would have been glad, to find mention in that ministerial programme of the session. We would have been glad to see that legislation was foreshadowed to carry out the idea that we must prepare to protect ourselves by law against the invasion of our markets by men more powerful than ourselves, and against the waste of the great natural resources given to us by Providence, and which it is our mission to make the most of as a young people.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot for my own part entirely agree with what my hon. friends have said in regard to immigration. I believe it is in the interest of this country that it should be settled, I believe that we should favour the advent to our country of men who are anxious to form part of our great commonwealth and to do their duty as citizens. But I do not believe in the present policy of the government in regard to immigration; and I would have been glad to hear in the speech from the Throne some announcement of a change in that policy which has been followed for too many years. We spend too much money in bringing people to this country without discrimination as to their character, as to whether they are fit to become inhabitants. For instance, I do not believe that it has been a prudent or proper step on the part

Mr. MONK.

of this government to spend so large a sum of money, over a hundred thousand dollars, to bring here a set of people like the Doukhobors, who, while we were travelling in the North-west, were leaving their settlements and picking up rocks, and stones, and stumps of trees, in order to find the Messiah on the plains of the North-west. I believe that most of the money we spend at the present moment on immigration agencies, and there is far too much spent, would be better employed in keeping our own people at home, in preventing the exodus, and in offering facilities to our own people to settle in those boundless and wealthy plains of the west.

Sir, I listened attentively to the right hon. leader of this House when he spoke in regard to the colonial conference. It seems quite apparent from what we find in the English blue-book, and from what we know of the results of that conference, that it has achieved very little of a practical nature. It is no doubt a great advantage for the people of this vast empire, living under the same flag, to confer together, for representatives of the great colonies such as Canada and Australia to meet in conference. But I think that we on this side of the House have a right to expect something more definite as a result of that conference to our own country. Thus, the steps taken by the hon. Minister of Finance and those who accompanied him on that distant mission in so far as the very important question of a preference is concerned, resulted in absolutely nothing. There was no result. I find on page 10 of the English blue-book that :

The representatives of the colonies are prepared to recommend to their respective parliaments preferential treatment of British goods on the following lines :—Canada—

That is ourselves.

The existing preference of 33½ per cent and an additional preference on lists of selected articles—

That is what my hon. friend the Minister of Finance was prepared, as I understand it, to advocate as Canada's share—the maintenance of the present preference and an additional preference on certain selected articles.

(a) By further reducing the duties in favour of the United Kingdom ;

(b) By raising the duties against foreign imports ;

(c) By imposing duties on certain foreign imports now on the free list.

The real, practical, tangible result is nothing. We have no intimation from the government of any intention of carrying out that pledge mentioned on page 10 of the blue-book nor as to how they intend to implement that promise. There was no question of the embargo upon our cattle, a most unjust measure. Did they attempt, or achieve, anything as regards the removal of