

workers of the country, and is there any way to remedy the condition? Now, bad as times have been this last year on the farms of Canada, the government has seen fit to increase the expenses in the coming year, and to continue the process, begun many years ago, of closing up the last gap of liberty that the consumers of the country ever possessed. Notwithstanding all that the Prime Minister said this afternoon, the fact remains that the country did look to the Liberal party as the party of free trade.

Another fact is established conclusively by this budget; that is that the Liberal party is not a free trade party, that it has abandoned the principle that established it as a free trade party, that it is now in line directly with the party whose forebears established the national policy of trade penalties and that nothing is to be henceforth expected from the Liberal party in the line of free trade more than from the original party of protection. The Prime Minister says that this is not a protectionist budget. I wonder if it can be called a free trade budget. I think he means it is a budget of stability. But is there anything in it that would lead the public to expect some relief from the burden of taxation imposed by the tariff? He said that economists must take their stand in the practical world as they find it. Who are the economists? Since 1897 I have not known of an economist. I have not known of a professor of economy in any of our colleges or universities who has come out with treatises on this subject in a way to guide the public. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that since that time the mouths of the economists have been closed, and for a certain reason. A theory, he said, is different from practice. We must be careful of capital.

What is capital? Is capital only that which is liquid, looking for investment? Is capital only that which is in the hands of the manufacturer invested in a manufacturing industry? Is there no capital invested in the farms of the country by the million men engaged in that industry? What is capital? Referring to the men who have spent twenty years of their life building homes in the new parts of this country, and who now see everything slipping from them by the unjust conditions placed on their backs, I ask this House, in all fairness, is that twenty years of hard work not a very substantial form of capital?

The Prime Minister says he does not object to our theory, but to the methods we adopt to achieve our ends. He speaks of the great men of the past generation in England who have had their names emblazoned on the

pages of history, and he asks, did they take the same methods and leave their party? I am not acquainted with the lives of all those men, but I do know of one in particular, John Bright, who did leave his party. He left his party, formed the Anti-Corn League and was willing to co-operate with any one for the purpose of taking duties off the necessities of life at that time.

The Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) says that if the world needs anything to-day it needs stability in industry, but, in speaking of industry, he forgot to mention agriculture even once. Does the agricultural industry of this country need no stability? If there is one industry in this country more than another that needs stability at this time, it is that one basic industry on which the prosperity of every other industry depends. The Prime Minister says we must take note of what the United States is doing. That is an old protectionist argument. It is venerable only in its age. There is nothing in it. He says we must let the United States know that if they sell they have got to buy. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that when we can buy our goods from the cheapest market in the world we are bringing the cost of production on our farms in line with the world's prices. Production will then be made easier and our goods for export will be produced somewhat in line with the world's prices. He blames the untoward conditions of agriculture and the country at this time on the Great War, which has now been over for five years. He says that through that, the demand for grain is gone. I want to inform the House to-night that we have about a 75 per cent better price for our grain than we were getting in pre-war days. Grain is the thing we have demand for, and we can sell it at all times. The wheat of western Canada is the chief producer of the income of this country, and it is the only thing on the farms that we are sure of finding a market for at the present time. We are not grumbling at the prices of that product; our grievance is as regards the price of everything we have to buy in order to raise that product.

The lowering of the tariff against Great Britain is more than offset by the restriction placed upon goods coming in, of having them all unloaded at Canadian ports. This will entail a haul of some 540 miles more by rail. It will certainly deprive our Canadian National Railway of a good part of its income, as it cannot be expected that the goods will come in any volume, at least in nothing like the same volume as at present. But evidently in this case the ear of the government has been