

made to me by a leading member of the Liberal party after Sir L. Tilley had made his first speech in 1879, the session called immediately after the elections of 1878. I was met in the lobby of the House by one of those gentlemen, and he said, "Well, Bowell, you have gone the whole hog," I said, "What do you mean by that?" He said, "You have adopted protection in its entirety." I replied, "Did we not tell the people of Canada that if we were elected we would do so?" "Ah," said he, "I never believed you would." "Well," I said "That is just the difference between you and the party to which I belong." We have had an illustration of the truth of that statement, 18 years afterwards. They went to the people pledged to a certain policy, pledged to the very hilt, that if they were elected they would give free trade to this country the moment they got into power. They adopted the very policy which Sir John Thompson said should be adopted, and would be carried out by the Conservative party, of reforming the tariff—very slightly though, only to the extent in a great measure of removing the specific duties, a point which I will not discuss now, and adopting the ad valorem system, but on the lines of protecting every industry in this country excepting two, binder twine, on which now some Liberals are trying to have the duty restored, and barbed wire. Now, is the Right Hon. the Premier the only man who made utterances in this way? Why, we have the mild and genial Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir Richard Cartwright, who never uses, as we all know, strong language. He said, in reference to the protective policy :

The National Policy is worse than war, pestilence and famine.

He also again said :

When we get into power there will be no half measures; we will destroy this policy root and branch. These men and their bonused manufacturers are scoundrels great and scoundrels small.

Then in Montreal, the same gentleman said :

There is no Canadian manufacturer who need be afraid to face the competition of the whole world. Our policy is death to protection.

He also said, see *Hansard*, page 714, in 1893 :

Our policy, first to last, has been to destroy this villainous protective system, which has been grinding out the vitals of this country.

Sir Richard Cartwright—

I, for my part, would be sorry to see the issue dwindled down to a mere question of revenue tariff. This is a very good thing in its way, but very much more than this can be got.

Sir Richard Cartwright's tariff speech, 1894 :

Sir, we strike, and we strike for liberty and freedom from this system of protective taxation. I tell the hon. gentlemen that we will not rest until the slavery that they have imposed upon us has become a thing of the past.

Sir Richard Cartwright at Ingersoll :

There are some people of the Liberal party who are there for their feshpots, and their stock of cotton and some other stock, who did him the justice to believe that he would do what he promised, and that he would not be satisfied with half measures.

One more extract from Sir Richard Cartwright's free trade utterances, see *Hansard* page 336, 1894 :

Sir, they demand our policy. Well, sir, they shall have our policy, and I believe I do speak for my hon. friends beside me. Our policy is death to protection and war to the knife to corruption. Sir, we strike, and we will strike for liberty and freedom from this system of protective taxation. I tell the hon. gentlemen that we will not rest until the slavery that they have imposed upon us has become a thing of the past.

Well, they, like many Conservatives, believed his utterances at that time, as well as those of his colleagues on the trade platform. Then (Mr. now Sir I. Louis Davies) uttered the same sentiments particularly in the maritime provinces, where he denounced protection as a system "accursed of God and man."

At Middleton, P. E. I., the same gentleman in 1893, declared that :

Whatever doubts or difficulties there may have been about understanding our trade policy in times past, there is none now. Our platform is clear and definite. To-day the people stand face to face with such an issue, and the next contest is to be one between free trade and protection. The policy of the Liberal party is the reform of the tariff by the elimination from it of every vestige of protection.

Columns could be filled, and I could occupy your time for hours in reading extracts to show what the professions of these men were when they were in opposition, I would then ask you to compare those sentiments and those utterances with their deeds since they have been in power. I do not know that I can close this part of my remarks without giving you two lines of their campaign song :

Join together, heart and hand,
Liberals for free trade shall stand.