

kets free from tariffs, and their bread they would get for their sustenance without any tax upon it. That gentleman is now Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and no longer the democrat to the hilt, and no longer shedding tears over the taxed bread of the poor Halifaxians.

Then what happened? These star performers—yes, and my hon. friend the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) was the presiding angel, and spreading his sheltering wings over this magnificent trio, told his own people of Nova Scotia: These are the men who will deliver you out of this worse than Egyptian bondage.

Well, Mr. Speaker, here are all these gentlemen before us almost in one row. Where is their reciprocity? Where is their \$65,000,000 market? Where is their free coal? Where is their untaxed bread? What has become of all these promises which they made to get office? After they got office, they simply come here and stick their thumbs in their waistcoats, and say, as the right hon. Prime Minister has said: Well, what are you going to do about it? We are here and you are there.

And yet these hon. gentlemen went to the United States on bended knee for six months, lavished all their arts on our American friends, and came back without even a reciprocity coat on their shoulders, for the Prime Minister declared last year in this House his abnegation and denial of the necessity for or of any feeling in favour of reciprocity. They are now on quite a different tack. To-day these hon. gentlemen have put into the speech from the Throne a paragraph announcing that they are off to Timbuctoo, China and Japan, and every small colony in the world, looking for trade. For the manufacturers? That is the allegation they made against us when we were trying to open markets. For the manufacturers? Oh, no. Is it to get this \$65,000,000 market, this natural market, near at home? Oh, no. All their promises have evaporated, all their pledges trodden to fine powder beneath their heels. But they have the offices and the emoluments, and those they intend to hang on to, however bread and coal may be taxed.

The next paragraph in the speech reads:

It gives me pleasure to observe that, in pursuance of the policy which was defined at the last session of parliament, a carefully devised body of regulations has been adopted, applicable to all railways and public works within the federal jurisdiction, making adequate provision for the sanitary protection and medical care of workmen.

Who says this? The Governor General? I may ask my right hon. friend as to these regulations 'carefully devised,' this fine body of regulations—has he deigned yet to give them to the House?

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not think so.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. FOSTER. 'I do not think so,' the hon. gentleman says. He treats the House with a fine scorn, with fine contempt. The hon. gentleman knew, if he knew anything, that the moment the debate on the address opened this session, every man here, his equal as being sent to represent independent electors of this country, had a right to the information referred to in the speech. Yet, what do we find? We had to adjourn from one day to the third day because no papers relating to the Canadian volunteers were down, and yesterday, the day to which the House adjourned, the papers came into my hands, for instance, as one of the representatives of the people, five minutes before he closed his address. And here is something else that they vaunt themselves upon, yet neither the public nor any member of parliament has been given even a squint at this 'carefully devised' body of laws and regulations. But, of course, this is a business government. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) has said so, and, of course, we must believe it.

The attention of the government has been called to the conflicts which occasionally arise between workmen and their employers. While it may not be possible to wholly prevent such difficulties by legislation, my government thinks that many of the disputes might be averted if better provisions could be made for the friendly intervention of boards of conciliation.

And so on, and so on, 'you will be invited to consider' something about this matter. When a stone was given where bread had been asked, there was an outcry in the olden times. My hon. friend has not said anything with regard to the Alien Labour Law. There is a law now on the statute-books of this country, placed there by the hon. gentleman himself, placed there with the promise that he would enforce it, placed there with the belief reposed in him by every labouring man this whole country through that his rights would be protected in relation to the labourers of the United States of America. And from that time to this, the law which is actually on the statute-books has remained to all intents and purposes a dead letter. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been importuned to bring it into effect. They would not, and the reasons they gave for not bringing it into effect have passed months and months ago, and yet the Alien Labour Law is not yet in force. And now they come down with another sprat to catch a whale, they come down with the idea of giving something else in the way of future hope and prospect to the men whose votes they would like to get to support them in power. Sir, I think the labouring men of this country may well ask the government to carry out the laws at present on the statute-book before they encumber it with more; or, if they choose to put more laws on the statute-book, that they will at least carry out the