

has destroyed, the greatest industry that Canada has yet developed.

. It being Six o'clock, the Committee rose for recess.

After Recess.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). When the committee rose for recess, I was referring to the manner with which the present tariff deals with Nova Scotia interests, and pointing out that, in order to assist some industries which were complaining of inadequate protection, the Government, instead of increasing the protection of those industries, decreased the price to them of what they called their raw material, thereby injuring these great interests in Nova Scotia whose finished products are the raw material of the carriage-makers and other consumers of steel and iron in Ontario. It seems to me a regrettable circumstance that the Government should have decided to take this course, and that it would have been very much better if they, having set out upon what I think may be fairly described as a protectionist course—as was plainly made manifest in their main schedule—had carried that out and had not sought to benefit some industries by impairing the protection to industries in the maritime provinces. For, by so doing they have, to a certain extent, undone the work which has been going on in Canada ever since the first bounties were given to the iron industry here. It is evident that the Government does not quarrel with the bounty system, because they not only continued the bounties but increased them. It is evident they do not quarrel with the idea of protecting and extending our iron industry. But I contend that by the action they are taking they have practically nullified a great deal of the work accomplished and made it extremely improbable that the iron industry will make the progress, for some time, that all friends of development in Canada would like to see go on uninterrupted.

I shall not, at this stage of the session, detain the committee by making a long speech, but I would urge the Government to consider that by, in a sense, undoing the work of their predecessors and themselves, they are striking at what is really a basic industry, the foundation of many of the great industries that should grow up in this country, that is not only our opinion, it is substantiated by the quotation read here to-day from that great organ of public opinion, the *Toronto "Globe,"* which speaks of these industries as the pivotal points upon which all the industrial system of the country turns. It would not require much argument to show how important it is that those industries should not only not be interfered with but should be guaranteed success. The production within ourselves and by our-

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

selves of our iron which, we are told, is the foundation of so many industries, would give a stability, a permanence and security which we can never attain so long as we depend upon outside sources for our supply. Now, a point has come up in this connection which I regret to have seen raised. I am sure that my hon. colleague (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had no idea of doing what the hon. Minister of Finance charges him with doing—setting east against west, or raising sectional feeling; nor do I believe that the Finance Minister was well advised when he raised that point. I would be one of the last men—and I am sure that in this my colleague thoroughly sympathizes with me—to suggest that the Minister or this House should regard any of these questions from a sectional standpoint. We have too much provincialism in our politics, and it should be the desire of every man who wishes to see Canada become a great nation to frown down the sectional and provincial spirit and endeavour to view everything from the Dominion standpoint. Nor would I like to attribute any sectionalism to the Minister of Finance by saying that he had any feeling against the industries of his own province. I have no doubt he is actuated by an honest desire to benefit the industries of Nova Scotia so far as is consistent, in his opinion, with the welfare of the Dominion. What we find fault with is that there is an inconsistency in the action of the Government, that while practically pledged to the hilt to a system of protection, they carry on a system of supporting some industries by striking down some even more important industries that lie much nearer the basis upon which the development of the country must be built. Therefore, while I am perfectly ready to believe that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, coming, as he does, from the province of Nova Scotia, is friendly to the industries of that province, while I cannot attribute to him a desire to injure the industries of Nova Scotia, I would regret to attribute to him any desire to strike down the industries of Ontario or any other province, because, upon him, as a Minister, it devolves to view all the industries of Canada so as to secure the greatest national development. I would rather do what I can safely do—attribute to him a desire to serve the interests of the province from which he comes. Therefore, I regret to hear the tone and temper of the latter part of the speech which he addressed to the committee this afternoon. A great many Nova Scotians look upon the presence of the hon. gentleman as the safeguard of their particular interests in this House. But the tone of his remarks to-day seems to indicate that he held strongly an opinion which would be inconsistent with the guarantee of support and assistance to our great iron and coal industries in Nova Scotia. I do not attribute to him any feeling of hostility.