

I have seen by the papers—how correct is the report I do not know—that some arrangement has been made, but I have always doubted it. But if it is so, I rejoice all the more. That would, indeed, be a very wide departure from the policy upon which this Government came into office in 1911, when they would have “no truck or trade with the Yankees.” I do not know that they are very enthusiastic even now about trucking or trading with the Yankees, but the force of circumstances is such that they have been compelled to have a great deal more truck and trade with the Yankees than we thought it possible this country ever would have under their administration. To-day, we go much further than trucking with the Yankees; we allow the Yankees to come into our own country and exercise what is practically the right of sovereignty in recruiting their own people, and the Yankees allow us the same privilege in their country. That is quite an advance in the policy of my right hon. friend, and I rejoice at it and congratulate him upon it. When the announcement was made, I could not but believe that this arrangement was one of the good effects of the entrance into the Cabinet of some Liberals, who had convinced their colleagues that they should give up their old opinions about “no truck or trade with the Yankees” and realize that the closer our relations with our neighbours to the south the better for the advancement of civilization at large. A great deal of the trouble in this world arises from distrust—distrust between nations, distrust between creeds, and distrust between races. Human nature, after all, is very much the same the world over, and I think all will agree that it would be better for the world in general, and for this country in particular, if this distrust could be allayed. So I said to myself: Well, it may be that I was in the wrong after all, and that my friends who went into the Cabinet were in the right, for it looks as if they were in process of making Liberals of their Conservative colleagues; and if that is really so, I do not know that I shall be very sorry for their entrance into the Cabinet. If they could bring their colleagues to sound Liberal doctrines I would forgive them a good deal.

But I was too previous in my congratulations. My joy was of short duration, because, if I am to believe a paper which is very close to the Government, it is precisely the reverse that is taking place; instead of Liberals converting the Tories to sound Liberal principles, the Liberals are going over to Toryism. Here is an item

which appeared in The Toronto News of the 14th instant. I will not say that the Toronto News is an organ of the Government, but it is very close to the Government, and I think, as a rule, reflects the Government's opinion. It says:—

Western telegraph despatches represent Hon. Charles A. Dunning, Director of Food Production, as advocating the removal of all duties on agricultural implements. He is said to have advised the Alberta Legislature to ask the Union Government for this concession, and the Legislature adopted a resolution in accordance with the representation. If Mr. Dunning has made the statements attributed to him he has gone farther than he should have done. The Unionist government was formed on the absolute understanding agreed to by all the western ministers that the tariff should remain in abeyance until after the war.

Is it or is it not a fact, that when hon. gentlemen from the Western Provinces entered the Cabinet there was an absolute understanding by all the western ministers that the tariff should remain in abeyance until after the war? If that be so, I am surprised, because in another paper called the Farmers' Magazine, published in Toronto, I find an account of a conversation between the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Crerar) and Mr. Dunning, the Director of Food Production, which goes to show that the Minister of Agriculture had advised Mr. Dunning to go and buy tractors across the line because the duty was going to be remitted. The article is entitled, “How Crerar got his Tractors—Henry Ford begins output of his 1,000 Tractor order for Canada April the first,” and begins with Mr. Crerar saying:

“Dunning, go to Detroit and get Henry Ford to sell us 1,000 tractors at a rock-bottom price to help our farmers to win out on this food production drive.”

Mr. Dunning replies:

“Yes, I know, Crerar, but how in the name of common sense can we do anything with this prohibitive duty on tractors? The farmers say it is too large an expense.”

And my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture replies:

“Easy! The Cabinet has consented to do the sensible thing and forego the duty for one year. Your course is clear sailing. Try it out at once. The farmers want all the machines they can get.”

So here we have the statement of a paper close to the Government that there were to be no tariff changes at all during the war, and on the other hand, the statement from another paper that the Minister of Agriculture had told Mr. Dunning that there would be a change in the tariff so far as tractors are concerned. So the matter is in