

pose taxation upon the people of England in order to carry out a policy that was being advocated here.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—That is a distinction without a difference.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—The British government wished to convey—I am assuming this entirely—to the people of Canada that under the present condition of public opinion what they were asking was an utter impossibility to be carried out on the part of the people of Great Britain in consequence of that peculiar condition of affairs that exists in the mother country—that they import some \$600,000,000 worth of food and some \$1,000,000,000 worth of food and raw material, and that the taxation of that would be ruin to their country. I hear the hon. gentleman from Halifax saying hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I quite agree with the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—It is always “hear, hear.” The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Mackenzie Bowell) read an article from the *Australian Star* yesterday, in which the writer, referring to the policy of the Canadian government, said, “the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” Hon. Mr. Reed, the premier of New South Wales, has adopted a free trade policy—the very policy of Great Britain. He is an Australian, and when he comes to criticise Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who received ovations beyond him and who concedes to Great Britain only a twenty-five per cent preference with an average taxation of thirty-two per cent, he is perfectly justified in saying “the voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” My hon. friend always said, “hear, hear,” when I was arguing this during the years he was in opposition; I want to show him that the policy of the government he still supports deserves the remark quoted from the *Australian Star*. I do not condemn Sir Wilfrid Laurier who I believe is conscientious, but I do condemn the Liberal party for not enabling their Leader to make good the pledges he gave when seeking the denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties. I have endeavoured to show that the government of Canada, not the Liberal party, not Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but the government of Canada, whichever party is in power is in honour bound to adopt a policy of free trade

with Great Britain, to the exclusion of the rest of the world if you like; we are bound to trade with Great Britain on the same terms that Great Britain concedes to us, not only because the denunciation of those treaties was obtained on the ground that that was to be our policy, but also in our own interest. I say we are getting the worst of the trade when we refuse to receive back cargoes the products of British labour, in return for products of Canadian labour. If you want Canadian labour to get the full value out of the labour that produces those exports that go across the Atlantic, we should admit return cargoes free, and then those who labour and produce those exports will receive the full benefit of their labour under that policy.

The next paragraph in the speech is as follows:

The extraordinary gold discoveries recently made upon the Yukon and its tributaries, appear likely to result in an enormous influx of people into that region, and have compelled the government to take prompt action for the preservation of law and order in that distant and almost inaccessible locality; measures will be laid before you for that purpose.

A contract has been entered into, subject to your approval, for the completion at the earliest possible moment of a system of rail and river communication through Canadian territory with the Klondike and principal gold fields, which it is expected will secure to Canada the larger portion of the lucrative traffic of that country.

Those two clauses go together. The Mounted Police are an efficient arm of the law, and its administration in their hands has always been characterized by justice and firmness and we are fortunate in having such an efficiently organized force at our disposal at the present juncture. Mr. Ogilvie has upheld the character of Canadian officials and has inspired confidence in the manner in which he has performed a difficult task among the miners and meting out among them the mining laws. The contract referred to in the foregoing paragraph has excited more interest through the length and breadth of Canada than anything we have had yet to excite the people. I cannot condemn too strongly the policy that the government have been led into in making such a contract as to give away in that Yukon territory four million acres of gold bearing lands to a company for the construction of 150 miles of a narrow gauge railway. I do not think that, of all the transactions that we have denounced as corrupt and indefensible when the Conservative government were in power, any begins to come up