

And so it is to the end of the chapter.

Mr. Speaker, the plain truth is that this minority party has destroyed responsible government in this country. It is in a minority in this House; it is in a hopeless minority in this country. It holds office simply on the sufferance of its masters from the West. Over there, Mr. Speaker, on the Progressive benches, sit the real rulers of this country. The Liberal party holds office; the Progressive party holds power. The hon. gentlemen who sit on the treasury benches are simply a cabinet in custody. The hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) is the Rasputin behind the throne; it is he, not the right hon. Prime Minister, who dictates the policies of this Dominion. The hon. member for Brandon has a willing instrument in the person of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). That hon. gentleman visited the West last year and told the farmers that there was no difference between his party and theirs. "We want to do what you want us to do," he told them: "give us your orders and we will gladly obey them." Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen from beyond the lakes have given their orders, and those orders are being obeyed. So long as men like the ex-Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) and the member for Shelburne and Queens (Mr. Fielding) were active in the cabinet, such enslavement could not exist. But the ex-Minister of Justice who believed in protection, and the member for Shelburne and Queens, who also believed in protection,

are gone, and the remnant of this 4 p.m. government—anxious to hold office at any cost and a pliant instrument for the intrigues of the member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) who has high political ambitions—has bowed down before its masters. And so I say that the real rulers of Canada to-day are on the Progressive benches. They are governing this country, and they are governing it without responsibility. The whole thing is a sheer negation of the principles of representative government. And, Mr. Speaker, this is just the beginning. These hon. gentlemen tell us that this is but the "first step." They tell us that they have sounded the "death knell of protection;" they warn us to wait until next year. The whole prosperity of the country is menaced by the cowardice of a minority on the one hand and the tyranny of a minority on the other. The truth is that it is impossible to point to a single administrative or legislative act during the past two years and say: "Here the King government did good." All along the line, anywhere that honest inquiry can look, the record is one of failure, of impotence, of defeat and of humiliation.

And now, Sir, just a word in conclusion. I have spoken of the danger of this budget. I have tried to show the peril that confronts the national life of the country in any interference with the tariff. I have pointed to the lengthy story of failure, of impotence and of humiliation and surrender to selfish interests which have characterized this government's regime. I have surveyed its record of broken pledges, of bad faith, of recreancy to principle, a story without parallel in the political life of this country. But it is futile to appeal to this parliament. The servile band who sit behind the government, with some few honourable exceptions, have outraged political honour. That group have degraded the public life of this Dominion; they care nothing but for office and power. But, Sir, a day of reckoning is coming. Sooner or later this government will have to answer for its stewardship to the tribunal of the people, and when that time comes we on this side of the House will confidently face the result.

Look over the history of this confederation, Mr. Speaker, and you will see that in every crisis in our national life the Liberal-Conservative party has been signalled by the people. I am confident that they are turning to that party again to-day. I am confident that they are turning to the leader whose experience and whose vision and courage place him high above contemporary statesmen, and that when the time comes to give their verdict, this government will be consigned to that oblivion which its record so richly deserves.

I have gone over briefly some of the reasons why this government have no legal or other right to occupy the position they hold to-day. They are occupying an impossible position, by reason of the pledges and promises they gave to the people previous to the last election. Did they carry out those pledges and promises? No, they did not. Finding themselves in a minority position, what have they done? They have done exactly what I have said: They have carried on negotiations with hon. gentlemen to my left. They have said to them: "We will give you whatever you want; we want to remain in power." I do not know how long hon. gentlemen to my left have lived in Canada, but I assume most of them have been in this country ten, fifteen or twenty years and have made great successes in western Canada. They have, I believe, built up good, comfortable homes for themselves and their families, and that, of course, is a source of satisfaction to us all. Many of them also, I presume, have large bank accounts. Now, Mr. Speaker, did they attain that prosperity under a free trade policy? No, they did not; they attained it under a protective policy placed upon the