

protection, simply because he is unable to get all the protection he wants, taking a seat apart and erecting an altar of his own in some far corner of the room. You do not find these hon. gentlemen who profess to believe in protection dividing into two great wings, one saying we have not protection enough and the other saying we must have more protection. "The children of this world"—sometimes interpreted as "the children of darkness"—"are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

May I say just a further word with respect to another feature of the budget—the emphasis which has been placed upon stability as regards the tariff in the government's tariff announcements? Why is it that the present government is seeking stability in the tariff? For the simple reason that what this country needs to-day, as what the world needs, is a little more in the way of stability. What we need to-day is to restore a feeling of confidence in the minds of the business community, and in the minds of the industrial community. The world to-day is still trembling more or less from the convulsion of the titanic struggle of a few years ago, and the highest duty of statesmanship is to seek, so far as it lies within the power of every nation, to restore in the minds of all classes of the community a feeling of certainty, a feeling of confidence, a feeling which for want of a better word we describe as stability. Stability does not mean finality. I notice that some hon. gentlemen opposite have sought to combine the two words. If there was one thing above another which the hon. Minister of Finance was most careful to emphasize when he spoke of stability, it was that as regards all legislation, and in particular as regards the tariff, there was no such thing as finality. He spoke particularly and specifically of the probable need for change as respects some items of the tariff affecting consumers and in relation to the necessities of production. He mentioned these things, and if there be need for greater emphasis as to what he said, may I direct the attention of the House to the fact that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance had no sooner concluded his reference to stability than he began to speak of reciprocity and of trade agreements with the United States, which would mean changes in the tariff the minute they were brought down.

No, what my hon. friend sought to convey to the House in his remarks was that the government, after having carefully studied the situation from all angles, had come to the conclusion that having regard to the situation of Canada to-day in relation to other coun-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

tries, it should tell the Canadian people that as respects the tariff, unless there were obvious reasons why there should be changes occasioned by necessity, they might be reasonably assured that there would be a steadiness in the tariff for some little time to come. That is what my hon. friend sought to make clear to this House, and he did so for the reason, that what we in Canada can do with justice in the matter of tariff revision is necessarily dependent in large part upon what is done by our neighbours to the south and upon what occurs in Europe.

What is the position with regard to the United States? Since the Liberal convention was held, there has been enacted by the United States a much higher tariff than ever before existed between Canada and the United States. The Fordney-McCumber tariff, so-called, to-day is operating to the disadvantage of Canada. Is there any member

of this House who will stand up in 4 p.m. his place and say: Notwithstanding that obvious fact we think we should throw down our bars against the United States and give them an opportunity to come in here and affect our industries in a manner even more seriously than they have already been affected.

Take the situation in Europe—and this accounts in large measure for the troubles that my hon. friends are having in the West. It is not our tariff alone. In these discussions on the budget all ills that any portion of the country seems to have are focussed up against this one target. The reason western Canada is suffering to-day is in large part due to the fact that the demand for our grain and our raw materials is not what it used to be, is not what it should be or will be until conditions in Europe become more settled than they are at the present time. We feel that the settlement of conditions in Europe and the favourable change in the American tariff are not likely to be effected for some little time yet, and for that reason we say that pending a change in this external situation we wish to give to the Canadian people the assurance that we do not purpose having an unstable tariff, because that is the significance of it. The one word has to be used in relation not only to its synonym but also its antonym. We do not propose to have an unstable tariff while this unstable condition exists in different parts of the world.

We have sought however in this budget to take steps which while not so apparent on their face, will we believe, become increasingly apparent as the years go by, and will, we feel sure, be helpful in changing the situation. We have increased the British