

the member for Shelburne and Queen's, was made. The sense in which it was made was that it was meant to commend to the country an arrangement which had regard to natural products only, and which gave practically no relief from protection on manufactured goods, which is the only real protection there is in Canada. That is something that my hon. friend would do well to pay attention to before he asks this country to vote for him and his friends—at any rate, on that record.

In the face of that record I cannot help thinking how much more freely men can talk when they are in the position of great freedom conferred by sitting on the Opposition benches, and when they have not that responsibility which weighs so heavily upon my hon. friend, the head of the Government, in regard to the great subjects that he has touched upon in this House this afternoon. When one thinks of the fifteen years' record of the Liberals in power, which practically amounted to the tariff being untouched, and not proposed to be touched in any way worthy the name in the reciprocity agreement; when one compares that with the record of real reform during an exactly similar period of English history between the years 1846 and 1861, then one cannot help exclaiming about the hon. gentlemen opposite: What patience they had in power compared with their eagerness and impetuosity when they are in opposition! Having regard to the record of the way in which tariffs have been dealt with in this country in the past, compared with the way they were dealt with in Great Britain, I must say that this motion is a very great compliment to the Union Government. The Union Government has only been in existence about a year and a half. They came into existence at the most critical period of the greatest war of history; they have seen that war to a victorious finish in accordance with the wishes of the great majority of the people of this country, and they are now tackling in manful style the difficulties of the early months of reconstruction; and yet my hon. friends opposite have such confidence in their ability that they say, "In your very first Budget, within three months of peace being declared, we want you to make ten times as drastic tariff changes as we were able to do in fifteen years in the times of piping peace." Is that a reasonable proposition to bring before this country on a motion for going into Supply? On that ground I shall have no hesitation in voting against this motion.

[Mr. M. Clark.]

I need not amplify the special points which have already been made by the leader of the House. It is a motion that, while technically correct, is highly irregular and calculated to upset and embarrass the trade of the country, and we need be in no doubt as to why it is introduced.

I heard no argument in the long speech of my hon. friend (Mr. McMaster) about the bearing that this question would have upon actual reconstruction in the country. I did hear him give a most emphatic declaration of his belief in party government. His position in that respect was very strongly and emphatically endorsed by my hon. friend who leads the Opposition, and in those declarations we have revealed, unintentionally no doubt on their part, the real meaning of this amendment. It is an amendment by which they do get back to party government; they forget pensions, they forget reconstruction; they snatch at the first thing that seems to have excited a few voters and inclined them to come back from an allegiance which they entered into for the noblest of all purposes. They seize upon the first handle by which they can abuse the Government, the first inducement which they can offer to voters outside. They tell us they emphatically believe in party government on all these grounds.

I hold that on the Budget would have been the time to introduce this resolution, that it is not meant to succeed, and therefore has in it an element of insincerity which does not make an appeal to me; that it is playing a purely party game, and that there is no evidence in the general conduct of the Opposition that they are so vastly in earnest upon a number of other matters which are exercising the people of this country. We had an example of that last night, when one of the policies of the Government of this House was debated for two hours without any gentleman on the opposite side of the House stating his opinion. On all these grounds I shall not have the slightest hesitation in voting with the leader of the Government.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

#### After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY WHITE (Victoria, Alta): Mr. Speaker, in rising to second the resolution moved by the member for Brome (Mr. McMaster), I may say that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House have frequently brought resolutions of this nature before Parliament. Since the year