

The Minister of Finance said last night that no Liberal had ever declared that they were going to destroy protection all at once—that it was only Liberal-Conservatives who said that. Well, Sir, at one time the present Premier was a protectionist, and to that extent a Liberal-Conservative. But the present Premier declared in 1893, after the convention :

I will not be satisfied until the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. Our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection. He declared in Victoria :

If the Liberals were successful, they would cut off the head of protection at once, and trample on its body.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies), in that mild and dulcet tone that he often assumes, declared :

We have been attacking this policy year by year. This is an accursed system, a system accursed of God and man.

And now the party that was elected to curse it, who were led out on to the mountains and shown the whole enormity, and were bidden to lift up their voice and curse, have lifted up their voice, and behold ! they have blessed it. In 1895 the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said :

Call it protection, call it feudalism, call it slavery—I care not ; it is the same thing. It differs only in degree ; it is bondage.

We are under it still ; they have adopted nine-tenths of our tariff.

The system of protection has been the bane and the curse of Canada—the bane and the curse of Canada, I repeat.

And so on, all through and through. But there was one remark of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce which is instructive. He felt that he was going to have difficulty if his party came into power ; he knew that some of them would not be for carrying out their pledges ; he felt that there was a battle of Armageddon straight ahead, and he felt constrained to warn his internecine opponents of what would come. Drawing his warning from the defeat of the Democratic party in the United States, he said :

There are two lessons which, I think, the Reformers of Canada should learn. One is presented for our example and warning in the fate that has befallen the Democratic party in the United States. It shows to all who choose to read the signs of the times, that when a party places itself at the head of a great popular movement, if that party tenders the people a stone instead of bread, it is half-hearted in the prosecution of the great aim it sets before it, and will be deservedly swept out of power by the very people who have sustained and advanced it.

Now, I do not know that I can avoid the temptation of reading something from my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fish-

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eries (Mr. Davies). He made a tour of the maritime provinces, he spoke in St. John to the faithful assembled, and the faithful reported him. I catch now the eye of the hon. gentleman who is editor of one of the papers in St. John (Mr. Ellis), who is a staunch Grit down there, and to-day in his heart feels that his party leaders have not quite come up to his expectations. But anyway that did not prevent him from giving a fair report, and the "Telegraph" newspaper had another, and the two reports are exactly in agreement. My hon. friend, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, there declared :

This country cannot be made poor ; it must continue in wealth and prosperity. But he was not satisfied to be contented with a mere existence, but desired to see Canada take the fullest advantage of its great resources. This could only be accomplished in one way, by means of free trade. This was the key with which they would unlock the golden door of prosperity. \* \* \*

The Liberals maintained that any trades which required subventions to keep them alive, not only do not contribute to the natural wealth, but actually hinder the prosperity of a country. What has been the fate of some of these bounty-fed industries here? Where are the tall chimneys that were promised under the National Policy? \* \*

Our policy is to eradicate every vestige of protection from the revenue, so as to take nothing from the people but what is absolutely necessary for the purpose of revenue. Every dollar of protection is to be eliminated, for the evil of the protective system lies not merely in the money that is paid to the Government for its revenue, but in the enormous sums which the protected manufacturer is enabled to extort from the people. The manufacturer will keep the prices up to the margin of the cost of the imported articles with the duty added, so that for every dollar of duty that goes to the Government for revenue, two dollars or more finds its way into the pocket of the protected manufacturer. Under the system which the Liberals will inaugurate, this robbery will come to an end, and our people will be permitted to buy their goods in the cheapest markets.

Yet there is the tariff of 35 per cent, in case after case and case after case, as brought down by this Government. Taking up the question of the tariff, the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), who spoke at that meeting, said :

He said that in a job like the Curran Bridge affair, \$200,000 or \$300,000 might be lost, but one turn of the tariff screw and millions were lost. Where hundreds were corrupted in the Curran Bridge matter, the present tariff system corrupted thousands. \* \* \*

In the Conservative party there was a large number whose minds were not settled on the tariff question. In the old days, when there was no tariff, there were better times. The policy of to-day was sucking the life-blood of the country, and especially the maritime provinces. (Applause.) There were thousands of men in the Conservative party who are looking at the lost factories, the destroyed industries, &c., and we say to them : You have not accomplished anything by hanging on to this old nag of National Policy. If the citizens went on in the Liberal