

stand it, to abolish the principle of protection from the tariff of Canada, and to give us a tariff which will extract the smallest possible amount of money from the pockets of the people, compatible with the efficient administration of public affairs—and, when that money is thus extracted, to use it for the benefit of the public at large and not for any small portion of the people. I have alluded, Mr. Speaker, to the election in Winnipeg; and it seems proper that, at this time, on the first occasion when I have the honour to address this House, I should make a few remarks in connection with that election, more especially in view of the fact that remarks have been made outside of this House referring to that election by the hon. the Prime Minister of this Dominion. Mr. Speaker, it is well known to those who are in touch with public feeling in that province that my return here is a protest by the trade centre of that country (the trade centre not only of Manitoba, but of the North-west also) against this policy of which I have been speaking. One argument which I offered for the consideration of the electors at that time was this: I know, I said to them, what your feeling is with regard to the effect of the tariff upon this portion of Canada. You are at one with me in being desirous of the abolition of the protective principle. You, as Conservatives, still have possibly (although it is difficult for me to understand it) some faith in the promises and professions of those who now sway the destinies of your party. You desire to wait that they may fulfil the promises that have been made to you, believing that they intend to give you relief from these great burdens. I would suggest to you this consideration—if my opponent, Mr. Campbell (advocating, it is true, upon the question of tariff the same principles that I advocate) is elected to represent you at Ottawa, then, in spite of anything that you may say, these gentlemen will at once contend that the great city of Winnipeg has endorsed their policy. On the other hand, if you vote for me, you will only take away one vote from a Government which has a majority of about sixty in the House. The destinies of Canada do not hang upon this election; my vote in the House will count for nothing. But, if you send me to represent you, these gentlemen will understand that you mean what you say when you ask for tariff reform; they will understand that you really desire it, and are willing to go to the length of voting against the Government now in order that the Government may be saved from their false allies, and form the strong influences that are brought to bear upon them by the manufacturers. The people of Winnipeg, the Conservatives of Winnipeg—many of them—accepted the consideration which I offered to them, and they voted for me as a protest, while still retaining their Conservative principles, and still

Mr. MARTIN.

anxious that the destinies of this Dominion should be controlled by gentlemen representing the great Conservative party. But I can say that these same persons, strong Conservatives though they be, brought up in that profession, if the Government pursue the policy they have announced in the Speech from the Throne, and refuse to give them that relief from their burdens which they ask for, are prepared, when the great conflict comes, to range themselves on the side of the free traders of this country, of the revenue tariff party. They are prepared once and for all to abandon their political friends and stand up for their province, for their purses, and for their pockets. The hon. First Minister, however, seems not to have had that explicit information with regard to the affairs of Manitoba and the Territories which, as Premier of this Dominion, he should have, because, as I have said, he has taken occasion to refer to that election, and while, in a very generous manner saying that with his big majority, he could well afford to give the Liberals a few seats here and there, including Winnipeg, still he seems to have been under the misapprehension that the election in Winnipeg, instead of being as it was a protest, and a very vigorous protest, against the National Policy, was rather an endorsement of myself personally as the representative of the Manitoba School Act. Now, I can say that during that contest the Manitoba School Act was never mentioned; I can say that my opponent, Mr. Colin H. Campbell, was, if possible, an even more enthusiastic opponent of the old separate school system in that province than I myself was. He took special pains to have the electors of Winnipeg understand that in voting for him they would be voting for a staunch advocate of the abolition of separate schools. I say, therefore, that if the hon. gentleman really had an idea that the election meant an endorsement of the services that I had performed in that direction, he was entirely and absolutely mistaken. I can say, and I say it with great pride, that a very large number of those who gave me, in the past, and would give me in the future, a strenuous opposition on the school question, voted for me on the tariff question. Now, the hon. gentleman, in taking this view of the election, indulged in some remarks which I have scarcely been able to understand. He seemed to think that it was very strange that I, a Protestant, should come down to this House and should be able, along with the hon. member for L'Islet (Mr. Tarte) to vote want of confidence in him and in his Government. The hon. gentleman was good enough to christen me with a new name, the hon. gentleman was good enough to refer to different colours on both sides of the coat. Now, as I say, I have had some difficulty in following the hon. gentleman, and in understanding what he was driving at. I have not had the same experience in turning my coat as the hon. gentleman has had.