

effect as to make the Government desire to raise the duty considerably, so even as to prohibit it the employment of this article. The farmers in particular would not be able to understand this pretension. It seemed to him that this statement was a little egotistical. The working population might indeed not have the means of procuring all the articles of luxury, which, for instance, a Minister could obtain—they did not have all these means of enjoyment that a man like the hon. Minister of Justice could procure. Why, then, should he be disposed to deprive them of the cheapest and least offensive luxury they could procure? Would it not be a cruelty to deprive a man, who had gone through a day of weary labour, from having his smoke whilst reposing after the fatigues of the day? He was not ready, for his own part, to deprive the working people of this comfort. When the members of this Government were in opposition, they evinced extraordinary anxiety for the well being of the people. How soft were their protestations of love and devotion for the "good people," the "good working-man," and the "good habitants". But they now seemed to have forgotten the "good people" of former times. It was true that the possession of power sometimes tended to spoil these kindly dispositions on the part of Liberals, and that things did not appear to them under the same light. True it was, that what appeared to be very easy while in opposition, seemed to be excessively difficult when once hon. gentlemen had obtained the reins of administration, and assumed the responsibilities of office. Nevertheless, he could not believe that such position would justify any party, when in power, to go so far as to turn their backs on all the things, and all the principles, and all the political questions which it advocated in Opposition. If, amongst many others, any question had been strongly agitated in the Province of Quebec, it was certainly the question which concerned the duty on tobacco. He remembered having heard himself very eloquent speeches made by hon. gentlemen opposite, who complained loudly of the late Government in this relation, for having gone to the length of taxing

the tobacco grown by the people of Canada: and to-day, when a good occasion for carrying these declarations into effect presented itself, the heads of the party refused to act and give that relief that the farmers had the right to expect from them. They spoke of the needs of the public treasury, but were they not aware of the new system that was now inaugurated in the Province of Quebec, through their friend and ally, Mr. Joly? Let him quote a few words from the grand manifesto of that great statesman:—

"The new Cabinet proposes to meet the obligations of the Provinces, and to execute the enterprises to the accomplishment of which public faith has been engaged, by a system of economy and retrenchment which shall exempt the people from the burden of new taxation."

To adopt a system of economy and retrenchment, of which they had, no doubt, need, no person would certainly object to that. Nobody would deny moreover that this was imperatively required in the administration of Federal affairs at the present time. But he could not help remarking that, whilst in Quebec, they were boasting of being able to govern, administer public affairs, and even construct railways without taxes, but only by means of economy and retrenchment, here the same class of politicians refused to consent to any reduction of taxes, even of such taxes as that on Canadian tobacco, which operated so disastrously on a natural production, without affording any compensation virtually to the public treasury. A good occasion was now presented to the Government to show what their feelings were towards Canadian industry, and he regretted to see that this invitation to adopt a measure which would be not only extremely popular in the Province of Quebec, but would protect a very profitable branch of culture in the country, did not have the advantage of meeting with the sympathy of the hon. the Minister of Justice and the other members of the Government.

Mr. DUGAS said that the question before the House was so important and of such vital interest that he could not let it pass without remark. He congratulated the hon. member for Beauce