

councils of the men around him, knowing quite well that to his left—if he obtained power—would sit the present Minister of Justice; knowing quite well that to his right would sit the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who had frankly declared to the people of the country that this platform was only made to get in on well knowing also that he would have near him the present Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Graham); knowing too that he would have behind him, and directing his conduct, the powers centred in and spreading from the city of Montreal who are responsible for his elevation and for his position to-day.

Then it was that the doctrine of the chart was promulgated, then it was that the guarded empty language came into use on platform after platform—about a tariff for revenue, about a tariff for producer and consumer, about a tariff for the home—then it was that all these phrases came to mind, and the hon. gentleman sought by means of them to escape from the commitment which he and his party had made in the month of August, 1919, upon which he accepted the position of leadership that has brought him the Prime Ministership of this country but which binds him in the same degree to-day as when he was simply leader of the Liberal party. I do not need to remind the House of all these commitments, but possibly it would be just as well to read them in order that they may stand alongside of the aggregation of letters of the alphabet that is supposed to denote the Liberal policy as respects the tariff now that they have attained power. Here is what was resolved upon at the Liberal convention in 1919:

That the best interests of Canada demand that substantial reduction of the burdens of customs taxation be made with a view to the accomplishing of two purposes of the highest importance: First, diminishing the very high cost of living which presses too severely on the masses of the people; Second, reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, the vigorous development of which is essential to the progress and prosperity of our country;

That, to these ends, wheat, wheat flour and all products of wheat, the principal articles of food, farm implements and machinery, farm tractors, mining, flour and saw-mill machinery and repair parts thereof; rough and partly dressed lumber, gasoline, illuminating, lubricating and fuel oils, nets, nettwines and fishermen's equipments, cements and fertilizers, should be free from customs duties, as well as the raw material entering into the same;

That a revision downwards of the tariff should be made whereby substantial reduction should be effected in the duties on wearing apparel and footwear, and on other articles of general consumption (other than luxuries), as well as on the raw material entering into the manufacture of the same;

That the British preference be increased to 50 per cent of the general tariff.

And the Liberal Party hereby pledges itself to implement by legislation the provision of this resolution when returned to power.

The day of the return to power has come. The hour has struck and the moment is here. I would not expect that they would embody this resolution in the Speech from the Throne, because that is not the custom, but I would expect that the paragraph in the Speech from the Throne would be comparable in principle and would intimate a fulfilment of the resolution. I ask this House and my hon. friends to the left, whom I endeavoured to persuade many a time of the very truth that is revealed before their eyes to-day: do you find in the Speech from the Throne the slightest intimation or promise or hint that anything will be done, even of the very nature of that delineated in the resolution of 1919? Are we to expect it? Proud hearts beat with hope as does the heart of the hon. member for North Winnipeg. I ask particularly the hon. member for Marquette (Hon. T. A. Crerar) to answer this question. I wonder now whether my analysis of the sincerity of hon. gentlemen opposite, made last session and the previous session, which I am sorry the hon. member for Marquette did not receive very well, will not prove more accurate than the hopes that even he sometimes gave expression to.

It is not hard to find the reason for the change of heart. The hon. gentleman who leads the Government in, I think, the last speech he made, at least one of the most recent speeches, declared that there was virtually no difference between his stand and the stand of the progressive party. He described their principles as the principles of Liberalism, to which he says he is prepared to give a very wide interpretation. In that I thoroughly agree with him, because the interpretation he has given to Liberalism has been so wide as to include every side of every question under the sun. Indeed, under his aegis, Liberalism has become merely a synonym for political dishonesty.

I refer to a speech, which, I think, was made in the province of Quebec, at a banquet given to celebrate the victory of the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries