

Macdonald introduced the National Policy in 1878 in this House he did it as a means to an end, with a view of obtaining ultimately reciprocity of trade with our neighbours. The other day I listened with pleasure to my hon. friend the member for Peel (Mr. Hagan) narrating the manner in which the National Policy had been brought into the world. He dilated upon everything, he stated everything except this thing, the last of all, that this was, in the mind of Sir John Macdonald, to be a means to the end of obtaining reciprocity of trade which up to that time had been denied to us. My hon. friend's memory was short upon this, and the memory of my friends is also short and perhaps it would not be amiss if I read him and his friends the motion of Sir John A. Macdonald, if only to show him the immensity of the distance which now separates him and his party and its leaders from that party and its leaders of that day. This was Sir John Macdonald's intention.

That this House is of opinion that the settlement of Canada requires the adoption of a national policy which, by a judicious administration of the tariff, will benefit and foster the agriculture, the mining, the manufacturing and other industries of the Dominion; that such a policy will result in Canada thousands of our fellow countrymen now obliged to expatriate themselves in search of the employment denied them at home; that it will restore prosperity to our struggling industries, now so badly depressed, will prevent Canada from being made a sacrifice, either will encourage and develop an active international trade and moving as it ought to be in the direction of a reciprocity of tariffs with our neighbours, so far as the varied interests of Canada may demand, will greatly tend to procure for this country, eventually, a reciprocity of trade.

Here was the policy laid down by the party in 1878 and carried into effect the following year, in 1879, when the Conservative party had been placed in office upon that very identical policy. In the Act bringing that policy into effect, section 6, of the Tariff Act, 1879, was embodied the following permanent offer of reciprocity:

Any or all of the following articles, that is to say, animals of all kinds, green fruit, hay, straw, bran, seeds of all kinds, vegetables (including potatoes and other roots), plants, trees and shrubs, coal and coke, salt, hops, wheat, peas and beans, barley, rye, oats, Indian corn, buckwheat and all other grain, flour of wheat and flour of rye, Indian meal and oatmeal, and flour of meal of any other grain, butter, cheese, fish, salted or smoked, tallow, tallow, meats (fresh, salted or smoked), and tallow, may be imported into Canada, free of duty, or at a less rate of duty than is provided by this Act, upon proclamation of the Governor in Council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that similar articles from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty.

That was in 1879, and we are now in 1911. And what was sought for in 1879 we may now have, and yet men there are who doubt and hesitate and falter and who would erase thirty years of our past history from the book. Pages after pages could be quoted

from speeches delivered by members of the Conservative party in which the American tariff was denounced as unjust, as unfair, as hostile, and now that it is in our power to remove the injustice, the unfairness, and the hostility, loon there are who rise against us and tell us: Stop, proceed no further, let the injustice remain, let the hostility remain because upon injustice and hostility the United States Confederation depends for its existence.

It may be asked: What is the cause of this change of attitude, and how is it that men who all their lives have been in favour of the policy which we now propose to perpetuate are all of a sudden found to be against it? The other day my hon. friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster), in his address to this House said that the Conservative party had in 1891 said goodbye to reciprocity. I must confess that I was staggered at that statement coming from the hon. gentleman, because my recollection of history is that the Conservative government of which my hon. friend Mr. Foster was a member and an important member, when they went out of office in 1894, were just as much in favour of reciprocity as they had been at any period of their lives. I must say that the memory of my hon. friend Mr. Foster is not always uniformly exact—it is good sometimes, but not so good at other times—and I hope my hon. friend will not be offended if I tell him that his memory on this point is singularly treacherous. Shall I review with him the history of his past career upon this point, but believe I do so it would be better if I should give to the House the very language he made use of a few days ago:

In 1891 the Liberal-Conservative party made the last proposal for reciprocity with the United States of America and after the negotiations were ended and we returned home to Canada, the Liberal-Conservative party declared itself as done with reciprocity from the United States of America, and that hereforward its duty was to develop Canada on the lines of its own independence, and to look to the British market as the great, steady, stable market for our products. The old honey has not yet been quite purged from the Liberal party, which pursued the course until 1897. They went to Washington; they tried their efforts; they failed. They came back, and they made declaration in this House of Commons and elsewhere, that as far as they, as a party, were concerned, they were done with reciprocity negotiations with the United States of America.

Now, Sir, let us review the history of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) upon this question. He is aware, as everybody is aware, and no doubt he remembers it very well, that in 1891 parliament was dissolved by the government of the day, of which my hon. friend was a member, for the purpose of placing before the Canadian people the doctrine of reciprocity—not unrestricted reciprocity, as was contended by the Liberal party, but a limited reciprocity, a renewal of the treaty of 1854. The Conservatives