

a little too long, have been strangled at birth. No doubt they expect that this child in like manner will be strangled. Then they can go to the country and say, "Well, we are on both sides of the fence." The hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) can satisfy his conscience by voting for this tariff board, knowing that the proposition is going to be thrown out. The hon. member for George Etienne Cartier (Mr. Jacobs), the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Marler)—they can probably square their conscience and go back to their constituents to tell them what great things have been done for the people of Canada by the Liberal party.

Mr. MURDOCK: Do I understand my hon. friend to suggest that his party, then in power with a sufficient majority, were willing to let this bill be killed, that they did not have sufficient courage to go through with it?

Mr. MEIGHEN: We went through with it.

Mr. HARRIS: I was just trying to tell my hon. friend that the bill was killed in the Senate by a Liberal majority.

Mr. MURDOCK: I do not think my hon. friend made that clear.

Mr. HARRIS: I thank my hon. friend for correcting me in that connection. I notice the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier was very careful not to mention that the bill was killed by the Liberal Senate. I overlooked noting that fact. It only shows that he was a very astute politician.

I find in the budget address another matter of vital importance to the Dominion, particularly to Ontario. It may not be of very great magnitude at present, but it will be as it develops. I refer to the duty on the exportation of electric power. Is it good business to export that great asset that we have, particularly power generated in Ontario and in Quebec? The people of Ontario have great confidence in the public ownership enterprise known as the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission. We have taught our people the many uses of electricity. Everywhere you turn in a home you find a use for it, and its consumption is growing by leaps and bounds. The thought occurs to me that if we allow the tax on the exportation of electrical power, which the government proposes in order to increase the revenue by \$400,000, we must consider who in the end is going to pay this tax next year and the year after. It will be paid not by those consumers who have long-term contracts at the present time, but by those in Canada who buy that power from day to day.

[Mr. Harris.]

And, of the people who are buying it from day to day in Ontario, one hundred thousand are my constituents. They are the people who will have to pay, in my opinion—I shall be glad to have light on the subject if that is not the case. But apart from that, if any move in this direction is to be made, let us stabilize industries in this country and retain that power for their use. If we could only instil into the heart and mind of this government some of the tariff stability which the Minister of Finance stood for in 1922-23, we should be able to get somewhere. Stabilize industry and you will not need any export of power; you will rather have to put an embargo on it to keep it here. I do not like to see my constituents taxed for a portion of this \$400,000; I object to it very strenuously! Not only that; it will have the effect of damping their enthusiasm for public ownership enterprise. I have great confidence in the public ownership of the Hydro-Electric Commission; I regard it as one of the greatest achievements of the last two or three decades. How some laughed at Sir Adam Beck when he told the people they would be washing their clothes with machines which would get their power from the white coal of Niagara! How some laughed when he said we would be heating our houses, making toast and doing all the other things we do in this day with the power made available from this source! It is only a matter of one or two decades ago that some thought there was nothing in the proposition. But what have we to-day? Tremendous industries have been built up in connection with the manufacture of all sorts of utensils using power. The possibility of the development of electrical energy in all parts of Canada is such that its magnitude can hardly be conceived. I feel, therefore, that the government is very ill-advised in putting on the statute book such a regulation as this.

I said a little while ago, Mr. Speaker, that not only were we losing our people by allowing tariff to slip a little, but we were also sacrificing some \$15,637,000 of revenue. But that is not all; we are about the only nation in the world of any size that has not increased tariff duties within the last four or five years. Even the Irish Free State, in July, 1924, placed duties on boots and shoes, glass bottles and jars, soap and candles, all of which had previously been duty free. The duties on sugar, confectionery and cocoa preparations were also increased.

You know what has happened in Australia, a new tariff was introduced in that country in March, 1920, providing for substantial increases in the rates of duty on practically