

Customs Act

in the back concession lines who are working long hours for a fraction of the money that the men in the textile trade, whom you are putting out of business, have been getting? Who are the consuming public?

I have sat in on many important labour negotiations and have provided and granted more money in fringe benefits than 50 per cent of the farmers of Canada are now receiving for all their wages.

Who are the consuming public? I am delighted to find that the Minister of National Revenue is shocked and concerned for his friends in the Ottawa valley. I am delighted that those manufacturers in the Ottawa valley have shocked him after the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair) and others have warned of this spectacle coming to light for the past two or three years. I am glad that at least he has stopped, looked and listened to what hon. members on this side have said for the last two or three years.

Oh, how it amuses me to see the squirmings, the twistings and the juggling of those supposed free traders who for years could not see anything virtuous in the policy announced by my hon. leader, who says that we must develop our own resources, in our own country for our own countrymen! In the language of the street corner, the chickens are coming home to roost.

I hear hon. members pleading for the consumer. I am sorry for those consumers who have to get their goods at low cost, whether they wish to work or not. We have baby bonuses and old age pensions. No matter how they get their money. Certainly let us support the consumers, because, as my hon. friend has just said, we are politicians and there are more of them than there are producers. Do not let us fool ourselves. Just as we approach difficult times we will approach these realities of life itself. There is nothing on a silver platter for anyone; you will not get anything and deserve anything that you do not more or less earn.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Rowe: My friends laugh and apparently some of them do not understand that.

An hon. Member: There was a good joke down here, that is all.

Mr. Rowe: I am glad you gentlemen can joke; I am glad you have a sense of humour because you need all that. I sometimes wonder why these people are so concerned. We are all concerned over the labouring man. He is the heart and soul of Canada. There is no one more sympathetic toward labour than I am. I take second place to no one in this house in my concern for labour. In

fact I have suffered political defeat because of my concern for labour. I have faced embarrassment in industry because of my concern for labour.

But the labouring men of Canada know very well what the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) has just said. It amused the hon. member as well to see those who have paraded under the cloak of free trade for so many years now twisting and squirming by different methods and procedures to get back into the position of protecting these men. Are these the gentlemen who have said that industry exploits labour? Are they the ones who have talked about trusts and monopolies? Are they the ones who want more for labour every day? How can you say that you can give them more and buy from the countries that give them less? Stop and think. It needs only the arithmetic of a second-class student to figure that out.

It is nonsense. It is only because we are able to tell the public and to tell the electors where we stand on this issue. Since the days of confederation the Conservative party has stood for these things. We were the first to inaugurate a fiscal policy that started the industrial development of this country, that made this country what it is today. But down through the years you have ridiculed us in opposition and you have mimicked us while in power.

During the days of Sir Wilfrid Laurier you adopted the policies of Sir John A. Macdonald. You ridiculed R. B. Bennett for being a high protectionist. You mimicked him when you came into power, but it is well known in Canadian history that every time the Liberal party has come into power since confederation it has raised the tariff.

I have been amused in watching this spectacle for twenty-five years. This government has been in power for a long time and I compliment them tonight for being the most uniquely cunning political party since confederation. Never has a party been in power which has so many stripes of different policy as the party who sits to your right. We have free traders; we have free lancers; we have socialists; we have pinks; we have those who are bordering on red in the party that is in power today. Mr. Speaker, with all due respects to my friends to your right, they constitute the most mongrel political concoction I have seen since confederation.

I am surprised that they ridicule my hon. friends to my left. They at least wear their colours. They outline for you what they are.