

(Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) made last session one of the most pronounced free trade speeches he ever made in his life. It would be well perhaps that I should refer to some of the language which he used then, in order to show his words, by way of contrast with those of other ministers. The Prime Minister congratulates himself that he has assembled in his cabinet men of every variety of opinion with regard to fiscal matters. Well, he certainly has a very strong contrast in some of them. Listen to what the Minister of Trade and Commerce said last session, and we will know when he gets on his feet now whether or not he is of the same opinion :

I do not mean to say that a government may not be corrupt and yet not protectionist. That may be. But I do say that human nature being as it is, it is almost impossible for a government to be protectionist and escape being corrupt.

But the Minister of Trade and Commerce, according to ideas of gentlemen on his own side of the House, is in a protectionist government at present, and he says it is difficult to be in a protectionist government and not be corrupt. Of course, if he insists upon it, we are bound to take him at his word. The Minister of Trade and Commerce thus continued his remarks :

And I will add this further ; I will add that while I think protection and corruption are practically inseparable ; I will add that I likewise believe for my part, that protection and true freedom are all but absolutely incompatible. On that I will give you words of another more eloquent than any I can utter. Here are some remarks which are very much indeed to the purpose. The gentleman whom I quote says :

'I come to expose to you the policy of the Liberal party. Let me tell you that policy may be resumed in the good Saxon word 'freedom' in every sense of the term ; freedom of speech, freedom of action, freedom of religious life and civil life, and last, not least, freedom in commercial life. . . .

In the American Republic you have the line of cleavage which exists between the Liberal party and the Conservative party—the question of free trade. We stand for freedom, they stand for restriction ; they stand for servitude ; we stand for freedom.

I denounce to you the policy of protection as bondage ; yea, bondage, and I refer to bondage in the same manner in which the American

slavery was bondage ; not in the same degree perhaps, but in the same manner. . . . In the same manner the people of this country, the inhabitants of the city of Winnipeg especially, are toiling for a master, who takes away, not every cent of profit, but a very large percentage, a very great portion of your earnings for which you toil and sweat. . . .

I do not tell you that we must have no taxation, but I do say that the government has no right to take a cent from you or me except for the necessities of the revenue, and if the government takes from you any portion of your earnings, whether the portion be large or small, to give to somebody else that government is as much a robber as the highwayman who puts a pistol to your forehead and says : "your purse or your life."

Admirable sentences, admirably expressed with that force and eloquence with which my right hon. friend (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) usually puts the case before his audience.

Mr. BROCK. See them smiling.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). After the session the Finance Minister went to Yarmouth, and he spoke there ; the Finance Minister at Yarmouth, the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton) in his organ and in personal interviews, the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher) and the Minister of Customs (Hon. Mr. Paterson) in Argenteuil, the Postmaster General (Hon. Sir William Mulock) on the public platform and in his organ, the Minister of Inland Revenue (Hon. Mr. Bernier) at St. Hyacinthe, the Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair) in New Brunswick, the member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), the member for Hants (Mr. Russell) in Yarmouth, and many other members on the government side of the House have proclaimed their adherence to free trade, and have denounced any attempt to increase the tariff. On the other hand, the Prime Minister, through the mouth of his Minister of Marine, announced in Malsonneuve that he was in favour of legitimate protection to Canadian industry, and the Minister of Marine appeared on the platform before his electors as a protectionist. The member for West York (Mr. Campbell), the member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie), the member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes), the Prime Minister of Ontario, the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, the Hon. James McMullen, and a great many other very prominent gentlemen in the Liberal