

are without work, property has greatly depreciated; briefly, everybody is suffering from a crisis unparalleled in our history, both owing to its intensity and duration."

However, in 1879, Sir John A. Macdonald, the Hon. Samuel Leonard Tilley, the Hon. John Henry Pope, Sir Hector Langevin, Sir Charles Tupper, the Hon. L. F. R. Masson, if I be allowed to mention only these, had assumed the task of bringing back our country to its traditional path. Is it possible for me to recall the great statesmen of that day without mentioning the hon. Joseph Goderick Blanchet, the grandfather of my friend, the Hon. Maurice Dupré, Solicitor General for Canada, and who was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons at the opening of the session of 1879. He was the first French Canadian Speaker chosen to preside over the House of Commons after confederation, and the only one, who was at the same time Speaker of the Dominion house, at Ottawa, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, at Quebec.

These illustrious men of the Conservative party whose rallying cry: "Canada for the Canadians," synthesised the doctrines of protection, brought back stability to our financial affairs and prosperity to the country, by reviving agriculture and industry.

In the course of the strenuous campaign of 1878, Sir John A. Macdonald, exactly like the Hon. R. B. Bennett, in 1930, had advocated the return to the national policy of protection, and in the Canadian Senate, on February 17, 1879, the Hon. Charles Boucher de Boucherville who had just vacated the post of Prime Minister of the province of Quebec to enter the senate, following events which you are familiar with, and to whom fell the dreaded honour of being the mouthpiece of his province and race, in seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, said while proclaiming the necessity of fulfilling the pledges made by the Conservative party to the Canadian people: "I believe that nations like individuals have not the right to disregard their pledges."

Does it not strike you, sir, that, in spite of the political changes and the contingencies of things, history repeats itself. The Liberal party in 1878 and in 1930, advocated the same doctrines. And a similar crisis swept over the whole country, in 1878 as in 1930, endangering agriculture and our industries.

In 1930 as in 1878, throughout the rural districts, agriculture is depressed and the fatal treaty of New Zealand came near ruining,

[Mr. Gagnon.]

in our province, the dairy industry, which we owe to the far-sighted policy of Chapleau and Beaubien.

In our cities industries are ebbing low as in 1878, and more than 100,000 unemployed are begging for bread.

Thank God, the Conservative party will not fail in their task. The leaders of our great party, worthy heirs of Macdonald, Cartier, Pope, Langevin and Blanchet, are imbued with the same doctrines which inspired their illustrious predecessors. Our party rejuvenated by days of trial and struggle, gathers its strength from the traditions and principles the continuity of which can alone safeguard the greatness of our country.

On November 20, 1911, when the hon. Prime Minister moved the Address in reply to the speech from the throne, he said: "We must protect our country. . . . we must protect our artisans, our manufacturers and our farmers by affording them markets at home for the products of land and sea. . . ."

These principles, sir, our distinguished leader often proclaimed them since 1911. In the hour of crisis, when Canada is threatened in its very foundation through the effects of a disastrous policy, our party is able to find leaders to save it.

In 1878, in 1911 and in 1930, our leaders did not bear the same name. They however taught the same doctrine. They unfurled the same flag.

I still hear the hon. Prime Minister, at the outset of the 1930 campaign at Winnipeg, propounding the necessary remedies to the ills of the present hour.

"We pledge ourselves to a policy of protection for Canada in the development of our national resources, our agricultural and industrial life and our consumers from exploitation."

You will recall the impressive conclusion of this memorable speech:

"We ask you to choose some leaders who will hold before your eyes the vision that is drawing near, a vision built out of a common purpose, with tools forged in the workshops of steadfastness and faith, a vision of Canada soon to be. Men and women, fellow Canadians, give Canada a chance."

The Canadian people from every province, from east to west, generously responded to this stirring appeal. This is why, Mr. Speaker, we are here, from every part of the country, so as to carry out all the pledges that we have made.

In the last campaign the hon. Prime Minister, as well as his lieutenants repudiated the immigration policy. Hardly had 48 hours