

the urban population of Canada, I venture to say it will be no more effective among them than it is among the farmers of Canada. If we are to protect our industries, that of agriculture is at least entitled to the same consideration as any other. I say, however, to the labouring and urban population of Canada that if the farmers' home market is not protected, then the labouring population of the cities cannot expect that the industries which afford them employment can be protected. We believe that under present conditions in this country, Canadian industries ought to enjoy reasonable protection in order that our natural resources and raw materials can be worked up into the finished product by our own population instead of being exported to foreign countries to be employed in the support and development of their industries.

My right hon. friend has had many fiscal policies. He has had, in the first place, the policy of protection with which he started out in public life. He has had the policy of commercial union. He has advocated the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, and, among other policies, Continental free trade, free trade as it is in England, revenue tariff, restricted reciprocity, and now free food. My right hon. friend has not stood by these policies very thoroughly. He has asserted them in very energetic terms, but when it came to the final conclusion of the matter he has not lived up to the mark. I have a great many quotations from my right hon. friend's speeches, but I shall use only one or two of them. In 1894 my right hon. friend was very strong upon the theory of free trade as it is in England. He said in Winnipeg in 1894:

When the Liberal party are in power they will at once give a measure of freedom of trade and step by step they will follow it up, and if God spares our lives we shall progress steadily until we have it as full as Great Britain has it. I come before you to-night to preach to you this new gospel of free trade. I denounce to you the policy of protection as bondage, yes bondage and I refer to it as bondage in the same way as American slavery was bondage. Sir, our policy is freedom of trade such as exists in England, such as is practiced in Great Britain.

There are many similar references. In a letter written by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Mr. Bertram less than two years afterwards, my right hon. friend did not stand very closely to that policy. He said:

Whether a policy of absolute freedom of trade would or would not be injurious to the manufacturing industries of this country, is a question which I will not stop to discuss here. There is no occasion for such a discussion as the

intention of the Liberal party is not and never was to establish free trade in this country.

Under these circumstances, it would seem to me that the people could not have a great deal of confidence that my right hon. friend will persevere in the policy of free food which he advocated at Hamilton, which he partially abandoned at Montreal, and which he seems to have altogether abandoned now that he has reached this House.

My right hon. friend has also referred to unemployment. He has stated that there are 100,000 people in Canada at the present time out of employment. Has my right hon. friend any authority for that statement?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I think that I am within the mark.

Mr. BORDEN: Of course, we can all have our own opinions on such subjects. I would like to point out to my right hon. friend that his somewhat despondent opinion as to conditions in this country does not seem to be shared by some of his political friends. I observed in a great Liberal organ, in its issue of January 1, a number of messages from the provincial premiers. Four of these gentlemen are friends of my right hon. friend. I shall only extract a sentence or two from each one, and I am bound to say that it is to the credit of his friends who are at the head of provincial affairs, that they do not take the same pessimistic view of conditions in Canada as that which my right hon. friend has expressed to this House. Sir James Whitney, whose illness we all so sincerely deplore, and who will, I hope, shortly be restored to health, said:

Ontario has had a year of great prosperity and can see still greater things ahead.

He was not looking at conditions in Ontario through the same spectacles that my right hon. friend uses.

Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, said:

The province of Quebec has every reason to be satisfied with the measure of progress and prosperity which has been vouchsafed to it in 1913.

There is no note of pessimism in that such as my right hon. friend has uttered.

Hon. G. H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia, said:

There was much less decline in trade in Nova Scotia than in the western and central provinces. Moreover the present indications are promising.

Hon. J. K. Flemming (N.B.):—

Notwithstanding 'tight money,' the slackening of business energy within the province dur-