

You do not have to surmount any difficulty at the present time; you have just got to leave things as they are. But I say, Mr. Speaker, that the time has arrived in the world's history when things cannot be left as they are. I do not say that the time for special privilege has passed, but I say that the time when special privilege will be patiently and silently endured has passed, and the people want a change. I say that that road of leaving things as they are leads downhill, and that there is danger for those who follow it. I say that when the night comes, and the mists will arise the only guide those who travel that road will have will be the fitting lights of political expediency. The other road leads up the Hill Difficulty. It will be difficult, there are things to adjust and hard things to do, but up that Hill Difficulty lies the road that the Canadian people should travel, for up that Hill Difficulty we will reach the Delectable Mountains, from whose summits we can view the Promised Land. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure, seconded by the hon. member for Victoria, Alta. (Mr. W. H. White) in moving the resolution which, Sir, is now in your hands.

Sir THOMAS WHITE (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we are always glad to hear from the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster). He has a pleasing countenance and a vein of poetry which we greatly like to hear express itself from time to time in this practical and prosaic chamber. I think it will be conceded by all that a member who can start his address to this House with a Canadian customs' tariff and finish it with an excursion to the Delectable Mountains of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, is at least entitled to high distinction in the realm of the imagination.

In politics my hon. friend is not only practical, but he is optimistic and decidedly persevering. Only the other night the hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. D. D. McKenzie) hung up a light which was to guide the errant footsteps home. Well, the light appears to have gone out, but my hon. friend from Brome, determined to have something by way of attraction, has this afternoon set up a banner; but I think when this discussion comes to an end this afternoon my hon. friend will find that, while the light has gone out, the banner will not wave, and that all the allurements which have been set up on the other side of the House are indeed in vain.

My hon. friend covered a very wide field in his dissertation—political economy, free trade, protection, the fiscal policy of the

[Mr. McMaster.]

United States, together with its income taxation system, reciprocity, and finally, and the most interesting thing to which my hon. friend referred this afternoon, his delineation of domestic scenes of Canadian farm life.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Now, I have an advantage over my hon. friend because I was born on a farm, and I am sure he was not from the description of farm life which he gave us this afternoon. I thought as I listened to him that he must have learned what he knows of farming from one of those correspondence schools—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: and if I may—without offence to my hon. friend and in justice to the intelligence of the farming community of Canada,—I should like to correct one indubitably false impression which he has as to the habits of the farmers of Canada, especially in the morning. I should like in all seriousness to point out to my hon. friend that the farmer on rising in the morning does not as he told us, first put on his socks and his boots; there are other garments which have priority over the boots at least.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Mr. McMASTER: Those are the unmentionables.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: My hon. friend did not mention any of the unmentionables. My hon. friend did make one true observation about the Canadian farmer this afternoon, and that was that he got up in the morning. He does get up in the morning, and when I was a boy upon a Canadian farm, quite a small one, I had to get up very early in the morning myself, and I have never forgotten it. The farmer gets up in the morning, and, Mr. Speaker, he gets up too early in the morning, and his representatives in this House get up too early in the morning, to be caught by any want of confidence motion masquerading in the guise of a genuine tariff resolution. Political economy, free trade, protection, American fiscal policy, reciprocity, the constitution and constitutional practice, winding up, as I have said, by an excursion to the Delectable Mountains—Mr. Speaker, what is it all about? What is the amendment of my hon. friend from Brome, and what is the motion before the House? Let us come back from his expedition into the realm of imagination and find out what is the motion before the House, and what is the amendment proposed by my hon. friend