

Mr. CARROLL. On whose authority do you get that?

Mr. FOSTER (Kings). I will give my authority at the proper time to the hon. member for South Cape Breton, but, as a matter of fact there evidently must be some truth in it, because my hon. friend comes to his feet very quickly, showing that he feels that there is something behind the prod after all. It is a well known fact that a certain section of the people of that constituency, who are responsible for his being in this House at this time were prepared to accept the proposition to lower the duty upon coal. I would like to ask my hon. friend if he is in favour of protecting the industry of the people who elected him in Cape Breton county, or if he is in favour of doing away with the protection which has been accorded, and will be accorded to that company? He was so anxious to rise in his seat and ask upon what authority I founded my previous statement that perhaps he will be so kind as to tell this House whether he is in favour of the protection of that industry or whether he still believes that there should be a lowering of the duty to the extent of 8 cents a ton on coal. I will sit down and give my hon. friend a chance to declare himself.

Since he does not declare himself on that question I shall proceed. We were told by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat that the Conservative friends of the hon. member for Cumberland, Nova Scotia, opposed any attempt made by the government of that province to bring capital into that country, to establish industries, and generally to build up the country. Such a statement seems to me to be tantamount to saying that the Conservative party and Conservatives generally in the province of Nova Scotia were a class of people who were not progressive, and did not want their province to be progressive. Well, I noticed that it was left to the hon. member for Cumberland, himself a Conservative, to bring the case of the maritime provinces for the first time to the attention of the Dominion parliament along these lines. It seems to me that the hon. member for South Cape Breton might have impressed it upon his friends who were here to take up the case of the maritime provinces and impressed it upon the late government who were spending a great deal of money on immigration into Canada. I am not here to find any fault with the amount that was expended so long as that amount was honestly expended, and so long as the people of Canada got a dollar's worth of value for every dollar expended. I believe that the people of the maritime provinces will agree with the hon. member for Cumberland,

Mr. FOSTER (Kings).

and with every hon. gentleman in this House, that with any expenditure that this country makes for the development of the Canadian Northwest, for the development of Ontario, or Quebec, find absolutely no fault so long as it is honestly expended according to the best policy, and the best advice of the men who are in power. We in the maritime provinces are Canadians, we do not limit ourselves to one particular province, and say that we must have this to the exclusion of the other people or the other parts of this Dominion. We had an illustration of that spirit from the opposition benches the other night when an hon. gentleman, speaking in this House, stated that he did not care anything about protection in so far as the west was concerned, that what they wanted was free trade. Well, I submit, Sir, that in the humble judgment of the most humble representative of the people, who believes in the principle of protection, he will not get free trade for the west at this particular time in the history of Canadian development at least. Whether or not subsequent years will prove that this is the best policy for this Dominion is entirely another thing, but I think that the majority of the people who are in line with the progress of affairs and conversant with public sentiment, would say that it was time to cease harping back to some narrow, little policy that appertains to a particular portion of the country, and to adopt and stand by a policy which will give the greatest good to the greatest number.

I want to say a word or two more before I pass on to another line, to my hon. friend from South Cape Breton. He said that the Conservative party down there were opposed to this policy of bringing capital into the maritime provinces as in the coal industry. My recollection of the coal industry is something like this—I stand to be corrected if I am wrong—that there were certain Conservative members in the local legislature who opposed the particular kind of contract that the government was entering into at that time because under that contract the people of Nova Scotia would be compelled to pay a very much larger price per ton for their coal than they ought to pay by virtue of the fact that they were situated near the mines. It was pointed out at that time that they would pay six and seven dollars per ton for their coal. Conservative members in the House and others in the country pointed out that the adoption of the proposed contract between the government and the syndicate which was then being formed, would enable the syndicate to charge practically any price that they wanted to for their coal. The supporters of the government said that such was not the case. The events of history