

Mr. Fleming then went on to speak of the duty on agricultural implements, believing the time had come when implements should be placed on the free list. He very strongly urged a reduction of the coal oil duties. If it was necessary to tax people's light, they should begin with electric light, which was a luxury, while coal oil was a necessity.

The hon. Postmaster General, when he sat on this side of the House, was in the habit of speaking of coal oil as one of the necessities of life; but he is silent about it now. His mind that formerly was agitated in regard to the interests of the farmer and the poor man is as calm as a looking-glass. We have some phenomena of that kind in other respects, if I may say so in passing. The hon. member for Simcoe—this has nothing to do with coal oil, but with light of another kind—had an annual motion on the Order paper when our friends were on the Government side of the House. He then took the North-west under his wing, and he had a Bill that was considered of a very disturbing character; but I neither see him in his seat nor the Bill. Mr. Fleming, continuing, said:

Mr. Laurier, discussing coal oil duties, had said that, in adjusting the tariff, he proposed to keep his eye on grand old England. "I hope," said Mr. Fleming, "when the matter comes up in the House, he will still keep his eye on grand old England, and not on grand old Petrolia."

What is the fact? The matter has come up in the House, but there is only a squint at "grand old England," while the other eye is full-orbed and very perspicuous on "grand old Petrolia." Further, Mr. Fleming said:

For seventeen years in this country, Mr. Fleming said, he had fought in the Liberal ranks because he had believed the Liberal leaders were sincere in their protestations of abolishing the unjust protective duties. Now when they had won the battle and relief seemed to be at hand, he was disappointed and disgusted to hear Liberal Cabinet Ministers assuring "protected" eastern manufacturers they would not be disturbed. He was disappointed to hear Hon. Messrs. Laurier and Mowat now saying the tariff changes must be made slowly and gradually. Hon. Mr. Laurier, before election, had declared the high protective tariff was legalized robbery, and now did he propose to continue for any length of time the legalized robbery?

That is what I would like to know, and the North-west wants to know, why he is going to continue this legalized robbery?

Messrs. Laurier and Mowat reminded him of two new and nervous surgeons about to amputate a man's injured limb. They knew the limb must come off, but as the man was hollering a good deal and declaring he would die under the operation, they decided to take it off gradually, first by cutting off a toe. The fear was, he said, they would not cut off more than the toes before next general election.

Who can doubt after the speeches we have heard here, but that his fear is well-grounded. Mr. Fleming who is a clear Grit, I ex-

pect, a true, sound Liberal to the core, continues:

I would rather have the Liberal party fall in trying to do right than succeed in doing wrong.

That is a sentiment that may be very vigorous in his breast, but I am inclined to think that there is not a bosom of any Cabinet Minister here that shares any such sentiment as that. I rather think they would prefer to keep their seats by doing wrong, than to fall by doing right. They have turned their back on every principle they held, and there they sit and not a blush on a brazen cheek nor a tear in an iron eye. When one asks oneself, how respectable men can so act, the only thing that one can think of, apart of course from the honours, is the moral of an Irish story. During the penal laws in Ireland a gentleman had turned to be a Protestant, and he was asked how such a good Catholic as he could have changed. Well, he said, seven thousand acres of the best land in Munster make seven thousand good reasons. I suppose there are seven thousand dollars yearly that will account for hon. gentlemen opposite pocketing their principles. Not only that, but the air is alive at the present time with honours; this is Jubilee year, and I read in the papers a long list of the honours that are to be conferred.

This is what Mr. Elder said, speaking to the memorial:

The farmers have returned the present Government on the policy of free trade, and a free trade policy they desire carried out.

I have shown what the farmers expected. Let me show that the leaders of the Liberal party when in Opposition responded to those expectations. The Prime Minister, then leader of the Opposition, spoke in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on 22nd January, 1895, and here are the mottoes that were hung around the room:

"Protection breeds corruption." "Remove the brakes from trade." "Lessen the cost of living." "A tariff for the requirements of the public service." "Down with the monopolies, trusts and combines." "And a large placard indicated the evil results of the National Policy."

But there they are to-day clinging to the National Policy. When the Prime Minister spoke at that meeting he quoted from their abandoned charter, that is now quoted by his friends with undying effrontery in this House and elsewhere; this charter of the free trade policy that has not been carried out. He said:

The Conservative party believe in protection; all their hope is in protection. The Liberal party believe in free trade on broad lines, such as exists in Great Britain, and their immediate object is a revenue tariff.

And yet they now uphold the strongest protectionist doctrines and principles