

were in power, and that this policy of taking away the protection which had been given by their predecessors to Canadian industries prevailed, of making the poor man poorer, and of bringing this country into a condition such as every Canadian, of whatever stripe of politics he might be, earnestly deplored, and such as every patriotic Canadian can never wish again to see in this country. I defended the duty upon coal when we were in power in the first instance. We maintained that principle as long as we could; and when we returned to power we reverted to our original policy—the same policy of fostering Canadian industries that had animated us from the first. We returned to it, and publicly proclaimed, as we did years before, that it was a proper principle, when we urged upon them the vital importance, in the interest of the country, of changing that policy in this respect. We did all that men could who were in a minority to induce them to adopt a policy which we believed would be successful in changing the financial condition of the country. I had pointed out repeatedly the experience of that great nation to the south of us, which had adopted the policy of protection to foster the industries of the country, with the result of relieving it from the disastrous consequences of its great Civil War. I talked, however, to deaf ears. But, having received the mandate of the people to deal with the great question of the financial policy of the country—having declared, with no uncertain sound, what the policy was which animated us, and would inspire us if again entrusted with power, the result of our appeal to the country was to sustain the policy we had adopted here, and which we had pledged ourselves to carry out if once more entrusted with power. Well, we reimposed the duty on coal—that odious tax which hon. gentlemen opposite had succeeded in striking down, but which I have shown here, as a pure question of revenue, can be defended on that ground as successfully as any question that can be discussed. My hon. friend, the Minister of Finance, dealt with this subject, and that is perhaps the only part of his speech with which I was inclined to differ—he stated that one-half the duty on coal was paid in the United States. On the other hand, the ex-Finance Minister, the other day, quoted from a speech of my colleague, the Speaker of the Senate, in reference to the imposition of the duty on coal; and I am quite aware that, years ago, that hon. gentleman and a number of other hon. gentlemen associated with the Conservative party were not so advanced as they are to-day in regard to this subject. I am glad, however, that the hon. gentleman opposite has quoted that as part of the argument which he deemed conclusive in reference to this public question. By-and-bye, however, I shall invite