

In Peel the same gentlemen said :

I propose that we shall follow England's example and open our ports to the products of the world.

In Ottawa at the convention he said :

I preach to you the gospel of absolute destruction to protection ; not a vestige shall remain.

Mr. Laurier at Waterloo, in July, 1893, said :

The Liberal party proposed to tax for revenue only, and not one cent for the protected manufacturer.

At Victoria, B.C., in 1894, he said :

If the Liberals were successful they would cut off the head of protection at once and trample on its body.

I have given these quotations from their speeches in 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, and up to the present time to show how consistent they were in their advocacy of that which they say now they never did advocate. Let me continue. In Montreal, in July, 1895, the Hon. Mr. Laurier said :

In the next place I will assert that, so far as Canada is concerned, the system of protection has been the bane and the curse of Canada.

At Quebec, he said :

Gentlemen, the only way in which Quebec can recover its old time prosperity as a maritime city is by adopting a policy of freedom of trade as it exists in the mother country, Old England. Such is the end we have in view and, as you all know, we are exceptionally well situated to carry on a maritime trade.

In Ottawa, in 1893, he again said :

They (the Conservatives) want to reform the tariff and still retain the principle of protection, but I submit to you that the ideal system is the British system of free trade. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection ; our ideal is free trade.

In Waterloo, in 1893, in addressing the electors, that hon. gentleman said :

"I denounce to you the policy of protection as bondage ; yes, bondage ; and I refer to bondage in the same manner in which American slavery was bondage. Sir, our policy is freedom of trade as it exists in England, such as is practised in Great Britain. I propose we should follow England's example, and open our ports to the products of the world."

Mr. Laurier at Newmarket, Sept., 1893, (*Globe's Report*)—

I will not be satisfied till the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. That is the end to which we are progressing, and the aim which we have in view, and we will not rest till we have achieved that object. When that will be I do not profess to know, but at all events I say that the Reformers of Canada have reforms to carry out,

but that our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection.

Mr. Laurier at Winnipeg, as reported in the *Toronto Globe* of Sept. 4, 1894 :

And now I will ask you, what is the policy of the Liberal party? I refer to freedom of trade such as exists in England, freedom of trade such as is practised in Great Britain, freedom of trade as it was in vogue at the time of Cobden and Bright. We shall give you free trade, and although it will be a hard fight, we shall not give in one inch, or retrace one step, until we shall have reached the goal, and that goal is the same policy of free trade as it exists in England to-day.

Mr. Laurier at Waterloo, 1893 :

We will tax for revenue, but not one cent for protection. Taxation is an evil that nothing but the requirements of the government can justify. When we are in power—and I don't want to sell the skin of the bear till the bear is shot, yet I think the Tory bear is about to be skinned—we will relieve the people of protection, which is a fraud and a delusion and a robbery. For it is a robbery to take money from one man and give it to another. It is not right that the farmers should be taxed to give workmen employment in the cities. It is not just to tax workmen in order to appreciate the prices of farm products.

Mr. Laurier, at the village of Arthur, in North Wellington, on Sept. 17, 1895 :

It was claimed that protection was a benefit to Canada, but it was the bane and curse of the country. Again: Sir John Thompson, at Montreal, said that the tariff would be reformed, but that they would keep to the principle of protection. This, Mr. Laurier went on to say, was no reform whatever. The system was wrong from top to bottom. . . . The Liberals are opposed to the system. They declare it to be a fraud and a robbery upon the people of Canada. The goal of the Liberal party is freedom of trade such as exists on the other side of the water in the motherland.

Is it any wonder that when Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier of Canada, uttered sentiments similar to those in England, that they should have been accepted? and is it a wonder that they believed that he had authority and permission from this country, after the elections, to give utterance to sentiments such as characterized his speech upon his arrival? I noticed in one of the speeches from a member in the opposition in the Lower House the other day, it was stated that he had no mandate from Canada to give utterance to free trade sentiments. I differ from that and take issue with him on that point. I think that from the utterances and from the results of the elections, the people of England had a right to believe that the Premier was honest in his opinions and honest in his declarations, and that he would carry them out as the Conservative party did in 1878, when they adopted the National Policy. I never forgot a remark