

Fielding had said in 1901 was the one the government had to offer that day, and which had been continued. I shall not attempt to enumerate or review by items the changes in the tariff effected by this tariff of 1907, but inasmuch as we are being told that to be consistent, to be honest, to be true, we should follow the Laurier-Fielding tariff, I think I should give some indication of the nature and trend of that particular tariff revision. Here are some of the reductions of tariff I find:

On reapers, mowers, self binders, binding attachments and harvesters, duty reduced from 20 to 17 per cent.

On windmills and complete threshing machine outfits, duty reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

On axes, scythes, sickles, hay knives, edging knives, hoes, rakes and pronged forks, duty reduced from 25 per cent to 22½ per cent.

On shovels, spades, shovel and spade blanks, and iron or stool cut shapes for the same and for lawn mowers, duty reduced from 35 per cent to 32½ per cent.

Among the items added to the free list by the new tariff of 1907 were machinery for the manufacture of twine, cordage rope, linen and for the preparation of flax fibre, blast furnace slag, trucks of a kind not made in Canada; parts of miners' safety lamps and accessories, blast furnaces for the testing of copper and nickel, well-drilling machinery for boring and drilling for water, whether made in Canada or not.

Taken by and large the Laurier-Fielding tariff of 1907 presents striking similarities, particularly as respects the instruments of production in the basic industries, and especially the industry of agriculture, to the tariff proposed by the hon. the Acting Minister of Finance. If it is upon the basis of the Laurier-Fielding model that the budget of my hon. friend is to be judged, then I think it is clear beyond possibility of contradiction that he is entitled to all the support that can be given him.

Now Mr. Speaker, I may say that the words "Laurier-Fielding tariff" cannot have any meaning unless they relate to the principle upon which the tariff was framed. Surely no hon. member pretends we were to have today the exact tariff of Mr. Fielding's and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's day. If they do so will it be found in the tariff of 1896 or in the tariff of 1907 with their many modifications? The only possible meaning that could have been attached to the expression Laurier-Fielding tariff as used by leaders of the Liberal party, is that if we were returned to power we would proceed with respect to the tariff on

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the same principle, in the same manner and method as the Liberal party proceeded when Mr. Fielding introduced the Laurier-Fielding tariff.

If there is any doubt on that let us consider the third period, the period subsequent to 1911, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier again stated his position in this House. Surely when up to the time of his death he was fighting for certain tariff principles, he was giving expression to the Laurier-Fielding tariff. When he was in this House after 1911 what did Sir Wilfrid stand for? Why, when my right hon. friend opposite and his friends proposed tariff increases he fought them, opposed them, denounced them. He said that what was needed was not an increase in the tariff, not a tariff based on the principle of protection, but a revision downward; a tariff based on the principle of revenue. All his speeches were to that effect. Not one speech that Sir Wilfrid made contradicted anything in the line of policy that he or Mr. Fielding had advocated.

In the general elections of 1917 in Sir Wilfrid's appeal to the electors, I ask my hon. friends who attach importance to the Laurier-Fielding tariff to tell me what he said. When that appeal was made in 1917 he stated in his manifesto what he thought should be done in regard to the tariff, he told the electors that if returned to power he would reduce the duties on articles that affected the cost of living and on the implements of production in the basic industries. But more than that, the last speech Sir Wilfrid Laurier made in his life was made in this city at a meeting of the Eastern Ontario Liberal Association, held on January 14, 1919. I have a report of that speech in my hand. Can we find any more authoritative interpretation of the Laurier-Fielding tariff than a statement of what our great leader said in reference to the tariff at that time and on that occasion? I say that it is the only statement that anyone has a right to quote as authoritative. Here are Sir Wilfrid's words:

In this country, Sir, Liberals have always been the disciples of the British people on the question of commercial freedom. Indeed, many years ago,—when you recall that time to-day—in the resolution which was passed upon this subject at the convention of 1893, we declared against the principle of protection, and when we had the opportunity we lived up to our declaration. Sir, it has always been made a cause of reproach to us that when in office we did not adopt but were recreant to our declarations. Such a reproach cannot reach us. We were not recreant, we proceeded step by step towards the goal, always keeping it in view, never imposing a duty for protection's sake, but always acting upon the principle or the basis of a tariff for revenue and revenue only. This was our policy in the past, it is our policy to-day and we have taken this occasion to re-affirm it