

proceed with the equipment of our national ports; they are being attended to to-day. We promised the development of our waterways; and already we have made a substantial beginning. We promised a reorganization of the public service; and we have brought from Great Britain one of the ablest and most experienced men in the public service of that country, whose report I hope will be placed before Parliament at no distant date. So I say, Mr. Speaker, that we are prepared to meet my right hon. friend in any comparison of fulfilment of pledges, and to submit our record in that regard side by side with his when we appeal to the people of this country,—and we do not doubt what the result will be.

At Six o'clock, the House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, when the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. R. L. Borden) was concluding his remarks, he laid considerable stress upon the fulfilment of promises by the Government of which he is the leader. I am sure the country will be glad to know that we have a government that fulfils its promises, and what it has done we will expect it still to do. But when the right hon. gentleman mentioned to the House a list of the promises made that had been fulfilled, it struck me that possibly there was quite a difference between his point of view and that of other members of the House in regard both to the promises and their fulfilment. If I caught his words correctly, he mentioned amongst the promises that had been fulfilled the promise to grant a Tariff Commission. The country has not got a Tariff Commission. While the right hon. the Prime Minister may juggle with words, the fact remains that if he made that promise it has not been fulfilled. He also promised aid to highways. That promise also, as I understand it, has not been fulfilled. He says the Opposition are to blame; the Opposition say he is to blame. The Opposition may be right; he may be right; but in any case the promise has not been fulfilled.

What is no doubt an important question is the construction of the Hudson Bay railway. He is fulfilling the promise of the Government in that regard. May I suggest rather that the Government of the day are fulfilling the promises of their predecessors in relation to that important work. Supporters of the Government will say that the Government are fulfilling their pledge in regard to the improvement of harbours. Does not the House remember well that it

was a part, a very important part, of the policy of the late Government to improve the harbours of the Dominion? And does not the House remember also that it was the part of those who were then in opposition to view with alarm the proposed expenditures of the late Government on these objects just as to-day it is their pleasure to point with pride to the still greater expenditures that they themselves are prepared to make? In regard to these promises there will be no difference of opinion as between the two sides of the House. We are proud to see our successors in office carry out our policy and if it is possible for them to improve on it they will have our hearty co-operation for the welfare of our country.

One promise, the most important made by the Government when in opposition, the promise that achieved office for them, the promise that placed them in power, has not been fulfilled. Surely that promise should be fulfilled if any, and if it is not then our friends of the Government cannot in reason claim merit or credit for the fulfilment of minor promises and especially for carrying out the promises of their predecessors. The promise of which I speak—and I hope I am stating it correctly—was that there should be no more truck or trade with the Yankees. That promise was heralded from every platform. It was that allegation which caused the old flag to wave so tremendously and successfully on behalf of our friends. But the facts are that notwithstanding their accession to power, notwithstanding that they are in a position in which they can carry out their policy, the truck and trade with these miserable Yankees has actually increased under their administration and, more outrageous than that, I believe there has been an increase of percentage as well as an increase in amount. In the face of this absolute failure to implement this most important promise, I ask why should the Prime Minister or his colleagues claim credit or merit for having fulfilled their promises? Why it is a notorious fact that Canada buys from the United States approximately twice as much as she sells to the United States. Under the declaration of policy upon which these gentlemen secured office, first of all, trade between Canada and the United States was objectionable and, in the next place, it was objectionable that we should buy from the United States. But to-day we are buying more from the United States than ever before and we are selling them, I verily believe, proportionately less than in recent years. That is, the balance of trade as between Canada and the United States is more heavily against Canada to-day, under the administration of these hon. gentlemen, than it was under the administration of their predecessors.