

had no knowledge that this proposition would affect them in the slightest degree. The area of those who are beginning to feel doubt as to the wisdom of this measure is enlarging with every succeeding day.

Now, I want to ask the government why should they take this leap in the dark? Had the government any mandate from the people to do this? We had elections in 1900, in 1904, in 1908, and not one syllable concerning reciprocity with the United States was uttered on the platforms by either Liberals or Conservatives in those elections. We were told by the premier, when he went to the west, that there would be no tariff changes without a commission, or at least without an opportunity for discussion. And yet there are tariff changes in this Bill that wipe out completely some particular industries, and the people whose livelihood is taken away have not had the slightest suspicion that any such thing was in contemplation. And yet, Mr. Speaker, two men in camera, without the knowledge of a single soul outside the government, make, on behalf of eight million people a hard and fast agreement, an agreement that spells difficulty and sacrifice for thousands, an agreement that spells ruin for many; and then, when people come forward and ask that the sentence be mitigated, they are simply met with the statement: Not one word, it is all or nothing; this country is pledged, our credit is given, it is too late, there is the door. Talk about despotism; there was never anything in the history of Russia that for absolute despotism equals the manner in which this arrangement has been made.

But, says the government, this is a bargain which is advantageous to both the contracting parties, a bargain for the good of Canada and for the good of the United States. We must concede something, we are told. That is true, but do the advantages that are to be obtained in return for our concessions greatly outweigh the sacrifices? Let us inquire for a few moments what are some of the things we are called upon to give up in order to have the privileges which the government newspapers tell us are so very great in this reciprocity measure. Let us examine what we get in return for what we give. Let us see whether we could not have got all that is worth getting by waiting a bit, and then we might have spared ourselves sacrifices.

Now, when we come to consider the cost to Canada of the concessions that we are to obtain from the United States, as the first item of cost I would place the unsettling of our trade conditions. Since confederation this country has been steadily progressing during the greater portion of that time. We have built up a great interprovincial trade, with an enormous amount of business within each province and between the prov-

inces. It is stated that eighty per cent of all we produce is sold in Canada, either in the province in which it is produced, or in the neighbouring provinces. Now, these producers and these consumers have made a large number of business connections one with the other, ramified throughout the Dominion of Canada. There is a constant ebb and flow taking place between the east and the west, and the west and the east, of the commodities they interchange one with the other. The men who entered into these business arrangements have made trade connections with the expectation that there would be in them an element of permanency. They did not anticipate that one stroke of the pen would throw their whole business into disorder. It was reasonable to suppose that if changes were to be made they would be made gradually, after due warning and that they would be made with due regard for the circumstances. Now what do we find? We find all these interests thrown into confusion. The eastern miller, the eastern packer to-day does not know where, if this agreement is ratified, he is going to get his raw material. He does not know how much of his home market he will be able to conserve, he does not know whether he can do any export trade whatever, and he finds himself facing a dislocation of trade conditions that is a most serious thing for him. The eastern shipper who sends his butter, fruit and meats over all that long string of provinces to the Pacific coast and who has been accustomed to place such and such quantities at different central inland points finds that the whole trade is likely to be dislocated and he does not know what he is face to face with.

The British Columbia fruit grower finds his market in Alberta and Saskatchewan taken from him. The Alberta raiser of cattle and grain finds that his British Columbia market is likely to be lost. So, all along the line these dislocations of trade are likely to be enormous. The lake carriers are likely to lose their water traffic. The railway companies will lose much of their trade and ocean steamship companies are wondering how their cargo will hereafter be obtained. So, all along the line we have uneasiness in the businesses affected and a recognition of the fact that these unsettled conditions may mean a great deal. Such a rash and sudden dislocation will mean a heavy loss to many and failure to not a few. It will mean financial stringency, I believe, in many parts of this country. I believe that among bankers it will be found necessary to curtail the credits of some of their customers, and it will mean a withdrawal of capital and a lack of confidence on the part of people with capital to invest in Canada. I make this prophecy in all earnestness that there will be a long account on the