

The Budget—Mr. Copp

Province	Output	Manufac- turing	Others Industries
	Four Basic Industries Per cent		
Prince Edward Island..	92.4	4.8	2.8
Nova Scotia..	66.9	23.3	9.8
New Brunswick.. . . .	82	13.3	4.7
Quebec..	54.6	37.6	7.8
Ontario..	43.6	48	8.4
Manitoba..	64.6	26.7	6.7
Saskatchewan..	89.2	6.6	4.2
Alberta..	86.6	9.3	4.1
British Columbia.. . . .	82.7	4.5	12.8

From the foregoing table one can readily see why there is such strong opposition on the part of hon. members representing the province of Ontario to any reduction in the tariff on implements of production entering Canada. There are three or four reasons for this opposition. First, there are a certain number of men who vote Liberal or Conservative because they have been born into that political environment and their political views have been largely tintured by their environment throughout their lives. Conservatives of this class are not favourable to tariff reductions. In the second place a number of hon. gentlemen opposite are interested in manufacturing concerns, and we would naturally expect them to be opposed to tariff reduction. In the third place, other hon. members represent constituencies that are largely identified with manufacturing, and it is only natural to expect that they also would be opposed to a lower tariff. Taking these reasons into consideration, as well as the significant facts brought out by the table already given, it is easy to understand why there is such strong opposition in the province of Ontario to changes in our fiscal policy such as the budget provides for.

The question of free trade has also been interjected into the controversy. My hon. friend from Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion) made a very excellent speech a few days ago and quoted or referred to Macaulay, Abraham Lincoln, and other celebrities in order to show that protection was the proper policy for this country to pursue. Well, I have only to say to my hon. friend that in my opinion what Macaulay wrote in the corn law days is not applicable to conditions in this country at the present time. Nor can we accept Abraham Lincoln, splendid figure though he was, as our guide in overcoming the financial and other difficulties which confront us at the present time. We have to deal, Mr. Speaker, with the living present and not with the past. The time has arrived when we have to deal with conditions as they exist, irrespective of what the people of the antediluvian ages may have thought. We might as well refer to what John Knox

[Mr. Copp,]

or John Wesley thought in regard to church union. We, the representatives of the people of Canada, must deal with these questions and settle them and must not consider what people thought a hundred or two hundred or two hundred and fifty years ago. I wish to view the situation in that light, and that is the light in which the government is going to deal with conditions at the present time. The hon. member sought to draw the red herring of free trade over the trail. No man in the Dominion of Canada is seriously suggesting at the present time that we should adopt free trade.

We have submitted proposals to this House for the reduction of some of the tariff duties and of some of the taxes which bear heavily upon the people of the country. The manufacturers, through their representatives and mouthpieces in this country, are making threats, talking about the terrible conditions and telling us what will happen in this country if the budget proposals are adopted. They did the same thing in the past. I think you, Mr. Speaker, were a member of this House at the time when Mr. Fielding brought in his budget proposals in 1897. On that occasion, almost before the ink was dry on the paper on which these proposals were printed, the leader of the opposition, Sir Charles Tupper, pointed out what was going to happen in this country if we should adopt the budget proposals suggested by the finance minister of that day. You, Mr. Speaker, will remember his eloquent words when he said, "I see the windows of the manufacturing concerns boarded up; I hear the sorrowful wail of men who will be put out of business tomorrow". But did that happen? Instead of stagnation in industry resulting, we had a fairly good development and expansion of our industries in Canada, in spite of the fact that the opposition of that day protested that it would ruin the manufacturing industries. They cried, "Wolf, wolf", but everything went on peacefully and quietly. They said, "The factories will be closed down, our men will be out of employment, and will have to go to the United States". They were afraid of their shadow in those days. We have heard of the men who, crossing the Atlantic, became frightened because they thought they were at Sable island and who when a breeze sprang up, jumped overboard because they were afraid they were going to be drowned. That is the condition at the present time. Hon. gentlemen opposite are all ready to jump overboard before any storm arises, and before there is any difficulty.