

that this has arisen not from any fault of our own but in consequence of the depression in trade that has taken place in the neighbouring country. If it be true, I say that if there ever is a time when it is lawful, or allowable, or wise, or expedient for a government to interfere, now is that time. Besides the general principle which I have been advocating, that our great manufacturing industries require support, the manufacturers of this country have been up against it. Some have been working half time, some three-quarter time and some have scarcely been keeping their doors open, hoping and believing that they would get assistance, and now at this last moment, just as they thought the time of relief was coming, just when their tether was strained to the utmost, when they were keeping on their work people not by spending their own money, but by their credit and by pledging their resources, in the hope and belief that they were going to get assistance from the government, no aid was given. The disappointment was dreadful and there was deep indignation, curses not loud but deep.

In 1878 the government of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie went to the country, and Sir John A. Macdonald for the first time launched the National Policy as the war-cry of the Conservative party. He swept the country and came back with an enormous majority. Immediately confidence was restored, industries that had been lying idle for months resumed operations, and shortly after, owing to the confidence that was inspired throughout the country, he was able to organize a company for the building of that railroad which was eventually the cause of his downfall. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company carried that railroad from ocean to ocean, and it has opened up and civilized the great country from which hon. gentlemen to the left come, where millions of bushels of wheat are grown every year. When I was a boy we were taught that that country was good for nothing but the buffalo and the Indian.

The doctrine of protection has been preached ever since. After Sir John A. Macdonald's death his policy was continued by his successors until it reached the hands of the greatest of all native Canadians, the late Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He never touched that policy to the extent that he ever injured the industries of this country, and there was never any anxiety respecting its continuance until the tinkering with the tariff commenced four years ago. It will be remembered by hon. gentlemen that when interference with the tariff was first mooted some of the brightest men on the opposite side left the party—at any rate they left the House.

To-day this country cannot continue without being protected against the importations of the manufactured products of those countries which have erected tariff walls against our products. I do not believe in a tariff structure that will make millions of dollars for a few people, but I do believe in such a protective tariff as will give the working man,

the man who has to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, adequate protection. He is the first man who should be considered. I believe also in such a tariff as will protect the farmer, and when I say the farmer I include the dairyman. For the last forty-eight years I have been associated with farmers, I am dealing with them every day, and I know the difficulties they have to encounter, especially the difficulties that the dairy farmers have to surmount, and these difficulties are becoming still more troublesome owing to the health laws that now govern dairying. When I heard an hon. gentleman to-night say that there should be protection for the women, I thought the farmers' wives needed protection most of all, because they are the hardest working women in this country. It is generally conceded, Mr. Speaker, that everything possible should be done for our agriculturists. If they are not prospering, then the country generally cannot prosper. We all know that the first fruits of the farm are what make a country prosperous. This is proven by the fact that every year our great financial institutions send their agents throughout the Dominion, particularly throughout the northwest, to ascertain what are the prospects for a bountiful harvest, and if those men come back with favourable reports the financial institutions regulate their investments accordingly.

I wonder if hon. members have any idea of what the dairy industry means to this country. I was amazed the other day when I read the report of an address recently delivered by Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Dominion Commissioner of Dairying and Cold Storage, before the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association. He is one of our most experienced men in dairying pursuits on this continent. Some time ago Mr. Ruddick spoke in rather an alarming way about Canada's dairy industry. From the proud position it had attained in the Canadian and British markets—a position which he himself was in no small measure responsible for—it was, he feared, being ousted by countries that had sat at the feet of Canadian dairymen. His criticisms of slovenly methods that had been unconsciously slid into were outspoken and unpleasant, but apparently they have achieved their purpose in some measure, for Mr. Ruddick now says:

I have as you all know, offered some rather severe criticism of conditions and methods in the industry during the last few years. There was a time when I felt rather discouraged and had some doubts as to how we were going to meet the new competition. If I put things rather strongly, it was because I wanted to awaken the dairymen of Canada to a sense of the seriousness of the situation. I don't know what effect anything I have said may have had, but I do know that there has been decided advancement during the