

I am confident that the whole of the Canadian nation is proud of the fact that greater facilities are now being afforded, not only to Great Britain but to all portions of the empire, to deal with Canada by way of imports in a manner which will be conducive not only to the better interests of Canada but at the same time to greater facility of trade on Canada's part with the other portions of the empire.

I have learned with satisfaction that it is the intention of the present administration to acquire in my county a large tract of land for a national park. I have said it before, and I know that I am upon solid ground when I state that there is no portion of Canada which in natural beauty and picturesqueness can compare with that part of the Gatineau valley which is the county of Wright and which it is my privilege to represent in this house. I understand that it is the intention to set out in the southern or northern portion of that county a large tract of land for the preservation of game, fish and birds, without in any way interfering with the rights of the holders of the land. That is a project which is well worthy of the forethought of this administration and its desire to promote the conservation of wild life.

There are many other matters, Mr. Speaker, that might be spoken of at this moment; there are many other things that might be said to emphasize the fact that the present administration has had at heart the welfare of the Canadian individual without at the same time losing sight of its desire to foster in every possible manner the development of the national domain. Many other subjects could be touched upon which would reflect upon the wisdom of this administration, but in the near future the great popular voice of the Canadian electorate will be asked to show its appreciation of what this government has accomplished in the last four years, and I am sure that the Canadian nation, desiring to march continuously onward in the path of that wonderful progress which has marked its advancement during that time, will on that occasion express in an unmistakable way its appreciation of and its entire confidence in the present administration.

Mr. H. J. BARBER (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I cannot follow the last speaker (Mr. Perras) and take up the several arguments that he has advanced in an attempt to show why the present government should be retained in office. He has spoken of the general prosperity of Canada and I think I am quite safe in saying that no matter what government we have in power we cannot keep this country

[Mr. Perras.]

back, but under a government with a fiscal policy more in the interest of Canada our country would have made greater advances than it has done during the last five years.

As regards the budget, let me say in the words of the amendment that I welcome and approve of every measure that will afford to Canadian agriculture, industry and labour an equal opportunity and fair competition in the development of the rich and varied natural resources of the Dominion. I do not intend to-night to deal with the financial portion of the budget. That has been very ably dealt with by my leader. Others have discussed the British preference and still another hon. member on this side has very thoroughly dealt with the budget from the standpoint of industry. My intention to-night is to touch upon a few matters concerning one industry that the last speaker mentioned, namely, that of agriculture and, in particular, those branches of it in which the people in my constituency in British Columbia are particularly interested.

This budget contains certain measures designed to relieve the agricultural industry. For years certain branches of it have pleaded for protection and session after session the party to your left, Mr. Speaker, have demanded protection. Now at the eleventh hour, on the very eve of a general election, the government have right-about-faced and tendered certain relief. Speaking as one interested in the small fruit industry, I am bound to say that in these measures of relief there lurks a great danger. The fruit and vegetable branch have for years sought relief from the dumping of foreign produce on the Canadian market in competition with our own good Canadian product. The remedy given in the budget is an increase in the general tariff to apply for the twelve months of the year. This application is the very opposite of what was requested by the producer. Under the new law the highest duty will be collected at that season of the year when we have no product to market and the lowest duty will be collected when our own product is available. I want it thoroughly understood that it is not the wish of the fruit and vegetable growers to penalize the consumer by high duties when their product is not ready for the market, but they want the Canadian consumer to buy their Canadian product when it is available instead of the dumped foreign article.

I should like to spend a few minutes in referring to the record of the present government in regard to this industry. In 1926 the Conservative government came to the relief of these growers by the imposition of a dump-