

tion whatever in voting against that portion of my hon. friend's amendment.

The hon. gentleman next deals with the repeal of the Customs War Tax imposed in 1915. I want to say here that I realize the full gravity of the statement which I am making, or about to make. I was opposed to the imposition of these duties in 1915; I did not believe they were necessary for the purpose for which they were intended. While it is true they may have brought in some revenue, I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they have added a tremendous burden on the consumers of Canada. I was opposed to them then, and I have failed yet to be convinced that they were necessary.

As to the remainder of the amendment, it is practically the Oliver resolution of 1917, to which I have referred before, and I have but very little quarrel with any of the sentiments expressed in it. I agreed with it in 1917, and I have not seen very much to cause me to change my opinion at the present time.

I do, however, want to point out to my hon. friends opposite that, as was said by the hon. member from Prince, P.E.I. (Mr. Read), a man has a right to change his mind if he finds that he is wrong. If a man has any honesty about him, and is convinced that he is wrong in his views, he will not hesitate to change them. I have not arrived at that point yet, but I may tell my hon. friends frankly that I am very much at sea as to what should be the policy of this country during the next three or four years, as to the whole question of the taxation by which we are going to raise a revenue. Earlier in this session I took occasion to point out, in a very brief manner, and in a very general way, the financial situation as I viewed it in Canada. I pointed out that I could not see how, under present conditions, we were going to raise the last \$100,000,000 of revenue required in the next twelve months, after the current fiscal year, and I have listened in vain for any person on either side of the House even to discuss the matter, let alone point to the solution.

I think I can go as far as to say that I have seen no very great change in the attitude of the people of Canada and their representatives in their demand for the expenditure of public monies. I am afraid that my teaching has not produced very much result up to date. On account of the changed financial conditions, I tell you very frankly that I am at sea to know exactly what ought to be the proper method of

[Mr. Carvell.]

raising taxation in this country. I think practically every method which we have ever heard of before and which we can conceive of in the future is going to be necessary in order to produce the required amount of money; and I want to point out to my friends opposite that the debt of this country will be a billion dollars more before the affairs of the present year are wound up than it was when the Oliver amendment was discussed. While that may seem a very unimportant matter to some hon. gentlemen of this House and some people in this country, it is a very, very serious matter to me.

With many of the general principles laid down by this amendment I am in hearty accord. I do not believe in the doctrine of protection for protection's sake. I do not believe that any industry is entitled to protection to such an extent that it means the prohibition of the importation into this country of the article covered by that industry. I do believe that the raw material of the farmer, his agricultural implements, should be made free, or as nearly free as it is possible to make them under existing conditions. It may be that the manufacture of some of those articles could not exist in Canada if they were made absolutely free. I have not been convinced of that yet, but I am willing to listen to argument, and I would feel like deciding only after a very mature consideration of the subject. But I believe that a great majority of the agricultural implements of this country ought to be free to the farmers.

Now, I realize, Mr. Speaker, that I am making statements which, considering my position, mean a good deal to me. I can only say that when I entered this Government—I am not going over the very, very long and somewhat unpleasant conditions which existed between the month of April and the month of October, 1917; possibly another occasion may arise when they can be discussed—I did so after the most mature deliberation, which many of my good old friends opposite know all about, and nobody knows so well as does my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queens (Mr. Fielding). I did so for one specific purpose and for a specified time. The purpose, I am happy to say, has been achieved; the time has not yet expired. During the election in the province of New Brunswick I issued a letter to my constituents and to the people of our province, setting forth the fact that the Government was to be composed of an equal number of former Conservatives and former Liberals, for the