

After the failure to revise the tariff in 1896 save to the extent of seventy-one-one hundredths of one per cent, one would have thought that there would have been an outcry from the Atlantic to the Pacific over the apostacy of the Liberal party—it was not, “a” Liberal party; it was the Liberal party. Let me tell you, Sir, that only a handful from one end of this country to the other offered any protest. In fact, they continued to worship Baal, the same God that my friend the prophet from Brome referred to the other evening. I am going to take my friend up to Mount Carmel to-night, if he will come with me, and we shall have a good time offering burnt sacrifices there. Well, had there been any repudiation of the course followed at that time there might have been some hope for the Liberal party. Repudiation—after the tariff had been revised? What do you suppose our friend the master of the Administration, Clifford Sifton, did? He went up to my old town of Perth, a place near which I was born more years ago than I care to confess, and he made a speech in the course of which he said:

The tariff issue has been solved by the Liberal Government. It has been taken out of the list of issues as between the parties, because the present tariff is one which our opponents would not change much if they were in a position to do so.

Seventy-one-one hundredths of one per cent—and the tariff issue had been solved, taken out of the list of issues; no further quarrelling as between the parties on the tariff issue! As I say, one would have expected an outcry from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But I do not recall that my friend the prophet from Brome took the platform and denounced it. I do not recall that any of my friends who sat on the other side offered one word of protest. The idea, Sir, was to “stand pat,” if you will allow me to use the language of the street, and to carry out the apostacy; to destroy or bludgeon any one whose voice was raised against it in this country. It is a reflection upon the people of Canada that that policy was largely carried out.

The Liberal party—I speak of what is left of it, because really the Liberal party is over here. How proud I was, as an old Liberal, to listen to the magnificent speech of the President of the Privy Council (Hon. N. W. Rowell) this afternoon. How pleased we all were to listen to the able deliverance of the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Hon. J. A. Calder) a few evenings ago. Those of us who came over here for a principle, to which I hope to

allude later, feel that we, in duty to ourselves and to our country, must stand for that principle until it is finally carried out. We are all proud to know that men of the type that I have just mentioned, old Liberals, are happy in this camp—not because it is a Tory camp, because it is not a Tory camp. There is really no essential difference fundamentally between men.

I have co-operated with members on both sides of the House, and I find the same kindness, the same generosity, the same views pretty generally when you get close to men, whether on one side or on the other. Therefore the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Calder) may set his mind at rest, because he will never be read out of a Liberal party. The hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler) spoke of keeping his Liberal principles in cold storage. I could not understand what he meant, and I will warrant you, Sir, that if he was put to it he could no more tell what Liberal principles are than he could fly to the moon. The trouble is that, so far as I can see, very few have ever stopped to analyse what Liberalism and Liberal principles are. They talk glibly about them, but they never stop to think. If I were asked what Liberalism meant, I would say that it meant freedom in trade, liberty in religion, and equality in civil rights. We all profess that, and inasmuch as the party on the other side, even led by the prophet from Brome (Mr. McMaster) will not be able to carry out the ideas that he has, he may just as well possess his soul in patience, and he will find it far better quietly and conscientiously to support the good things that the party on this side of the House are giving them because if the men on this side are not able, with the combination that I have described, to manage the affairs of the country at this critical time—and it is a mighty critical time—no other combination in Canada will be able to do so. There is no doubt about that. My hon. friends opposite would not take office if they could get it. They have nobody to go in with them. The light is in the window on this side, and my hon. friends opposite may all have to flock to it after a little.

The war is over. May we hope that for Heaven's sake the racial and religious cry will be dropped for good! I look fondly for the time when the province of Quebec will be represented as it should be in the Government of this country, and we shall not gain anything by calling each other names. Let us, however, be perfectly candid with each other; state the facts exactly as they are, and when we find a combina-