

*Ocean Shipping Rates*

joke over on the people when he was talking of bringing in free trade to satisfy the west and was advising the east to stick to protection.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hold on! Joke as much as you like, but keep to the truth. When did the Prime Minister ever talk of bringing in free trade?

Mr. MANION: He talked of it in his 1919 platform to a great extent, and, furthermore—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is no joke in putting on record a number of things that are not true.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend the Prime Minister is pretty much an adept at that himself. He went out in the prairie provinces and told the Progressive members, not once but many times, to link up with him because his and their platforms were the same. Would the Progressives claim that their party is not for free trade? They are all for free trade.

Mr. JOHNSTON: No.

Mr. MANION: I do not know what the hon. whip of the Progressive party would claim. He has been more things than I have.

Mr. JOHNSTON: The hon. member for Fort William has made a direct charge that I have been more things than he has. I have at least stuck to principle. I have never, Mr. Speaker, departed from principle, and that is what my hon. friend has done.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend makes a mistake. He means he has never departed from party. I have stuck to principle, but he has stuck to party. Of course, he has got as a reward recollections of a very pleasant trip to Wembley exhibition at the cost of the people of this country. What I was saying when the Prime Minister so jovially interrupted me was that the right hon. gentleman has had a lot of jokes at the expense of the people of this country on many occasions, for example, first implying to the western people that they were going to get free trade if they joined up with him.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I never implied anything of the kind.

Mr. MANION: And then he told the people of the east that he was sticking to protection. At the present time the joke is that we are going to have a pause in tariff tinkering, but nobody knows for how long. But of all the jokes ever put over on the people of Canada I sincerely believe the [Mr. Manion.]

present is the best. If the Minister of Agriculture would support me I would move that we take up this question this day three weeks, when it could be brought forward on April 1, all fool's day.

Mr. MARTELL: Who is going to be the April fool, you or the Minister of Agriculture? I think you will be.

Mr. MANION: I think we will go down to Nova Scotia and get the fool.

Mr. T. G. McBRIDE (Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, I do not want to find any fault with the government; I think it deserves a great deal of credit for investigating a problem of this kind that has been before this House at least since I came to Ottawa. Now, Mr. Preston states that there is a gigantic organization, indeed a conspiracy, to prevent competition in ocean transportation to and from Canada, a combine which, according to his statement, includes the British steamship companies. There is also, he says, an insurance combine. Indeed two gigantic organizations united to work against the interests of the agriculturists, manufacturers, fruit producers, importers, merchants, lumbermen, the pulp and paper industries, labour—in a word, against the great struggling masses of the Canadian people. In my judgment, Mr. Speaker, that last sentence is what one might expect from a third-class tap-room politician, and should never have been recorded in a report of this kind.

Now, according to his report, he has secured information from many sources. Where does he get it? He gets some of it from the manufacturers, a class of people enjoying from twenty to thirty per cent protection, and now they want freight rates lowered so that they can make still greater profits. Was that a proper organization for Mr. Preston to get information from? I would say not. He also gets information from the Lethbridge Board of Trade. What does that board know about the difficulties of navigation? They passed the following resolution:

Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian government be urged to take such steps as may be necessary to have Atlantic rates on cattle reduced to a point where cattle from Alberta can be profitably exported to the United Kingdom.

But they do not say that they should bring profit to the steamboats.

Now, in regard to freight rates I do not know that I will cover the ground that has already been covered, but I will give my personal experience in that connection. If the government want to verify the figures that I am about to give, they can go to the firm