

and to compel the same success which we had while proudly marching forward under the leadership of the great man who has left us. We have to-day as our leader a man chosen in a democratic way by the whole country, a man who is in touch with the people, and who is willing and capable to carry forward those policies that will meet with the approval of our great democracy.

Before closing, Sir, there is one matter I wish to point out to the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government. He found great amusement yesterday that any one could suggest for a moment that anything about tariffs should be mentioned in a speech from the Throne. A great many of our people, much to their sorrow, will remember that in the years gone by the right hon. gentleman himself had something to do with the finances of this country, he having been Minister of Finance in the year 1894. In the speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament in that year, prepared under the eye of the right hon. gentleman who now leads the Government and who at that time was an important member of the Government, we find the following passage:

At an early date a measure will be laid before you having for its object the revision of the duties of customs,—

It is a most extraordinary thing that the leader of the Government found such a fund of merriment yesterday in the suggestion that anything about customs should be mentioned in the speech from the Throne.

—with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in the business operations throughout the Dominion. While my ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for your consideration are designed to simplify the operation of the Tariff and to lessen as far as can be done, consistently with those principles and with the requirements of the Treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

That, Sir, was prepared and put in the speech from the Throne in that year by the right hon. gentleman who made such fun yesterday of the suggestion that the people who are groaning under the present heavy taxation and the high cost of living, and who are looking earnestly and anxiously for some relief from the Government and Parliament, could expect any expression of opinion of that kind in the speech from the Throne. We had a right to expect it, we had a right to believe that an effort would be made to better the condition of the people and to make Canada a country easy to live in and attractive to the proper kind of immigration from all parts of the

world. Do not let us forget, Mr. Speaker, that while we have a population of only some 8,500,000, we have a country extensive enough to support over 100,000,000 or the same population as that of the United States. Therefore it is the duty of whatever Government is in power to make conditions such as to invite the right class of people to come here.

Talking about trade questions, I am willing, Sir, that we should have the freest possible intercourse with every country in the world.

Let me say this to the Government and to the country—and I am not particular in what way it will be understood; in fact, it can only be understood in one way—that while I am anxious for the widest possible trade with foreign countries, I would not trade to the extent of one five-cent piece with any country which will not recognize my Canadian dollar to the full face value of that dollar. If this country is loyal to itself, loyal to its principles, loyal to its institutions, it will stand by Canadianism in the matter of having any trade with any country that will not recognize the Canadian dollar at its full face value as international currency. I am not in favour of any restriction of trade, but I am in favour of Canada's trading where there is fair trade where she is properly treated. If there is any reason why any country is willing to sell goods to us and yet will not recognize the face value of the dollars with which we pay for them, that reason should be clearly stated. Although this condition of things has existed for some time and has caused the loss of millions to the people of Canada, not a word has come from the Government with regard to the making of any effort to bring about better conditions or to relieve the people of Canada of this great drain upon their resources. I am not saying whether or not the Government could do anything, but surely they could make an effort; surely they could satisfy the people, if it is possible to satisfy them in that regard, of what should or could be done concerning the adverse exchange conditions which have prevailed during the last few months.

I again thank you, Sir, and the members of the House for the patient attention with which my remarks have been received. I hope I have made it clear to everybody in Canada that the Liberal party has only one standard, only one principle as applied to all of Canada. That principle, which admits of no place for sectionalism or anything of that kind, is Canada first, Canada last and Canada always.