

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Not on goods imported from the United States.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Allow me to make my own statement: 12½ per cent until the first of July, and after that an additional 12½ per cent, upon goods imported into this country under what is termed the preferential tariff. That will not apply to any country, the United States among them, except they reduce their tariffs, but it is open to be taken advantage of by the United States, or any country that may think proper to reduce their tariff, not to a level with ours, but in the words of the resolution, to a level, on the whole, equal to ours; hence the clause does not apply to England exclusively; it applies to every country in the world that has any tariff regulation which is as low as the Canadian tariff. The best evidence of that is that the preference has been extended to many countries—I think some 15 or 20, outside those countries which are governed in their commercial relations with England and her colonies, by what is known as the favoured nations clause. If any one has taken the trouble to look at the different tariffs throughout the world in the smaller principalities and smaller countries, outside of France and Germany, and some portions of Austria, and one of the Australian colonies in particular, he will find that all their tariffs are lower than the Canadian tariff, and consequently they come within the meaning of the resolution which provides for the reduction of the duties. I will not weary the House with other figures upon this point. But it has been also stated that the government have adopted a free-trade policy, and I was a little astonished in reading the newspapers to find in the reported speech of the mover of the address—I suppose I can refer to what appeared in the newspapers, it is public property—in which he said that the Liberal party never pledged itself to remove every vestige of protection or of adopting free trade. I do not know how the present tariff will meet the approval and approbation of my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Boulton), particularly when you look at its operations, and the effect that it is having upon the trade of the country generally. I will even, at the risk of wearying the House for a few moments, refer to some of the utterances of the party in power, in order that we may judge of the correctness of that

statement. I may say that one would be a little surprised, in reading the debates of the other House and the utterances of ministers, to find that they never attempt to justify the non-fulfilment of the professions which they made before they came into office, and yet you hear members of the party justifying the actions of the government in continuing the tariff as it is. Speaking from a personal standpoint, according to the views I hold upon the question of the fiscal policy of this country, more particularly with reference to protection, I do not find any fault with the course they have pursued; but when we are told, as we have been told by the mover of the address, that the predictions made before the elections of the destruction of our industries had not been fulfilled, but that everything was prosperous, why then we can only reply that the people of this country were dolts enough to believe that the professions which public men had made would be honestly carried out. In the language of Mr. Bertram the other day in the House, had the policy indicated in their speeches been carried out, we would have seen the destruction of our industries, and the prostration of trade in the country. I am going to read a few extracts in order that they may be placed in a succinct manner before the people and upon record, to show how grossly the men at present in power have violated every promise that they have made when they were in opposition. I read in a paper a short time ago a very eloquent lecture delivered by the Hon. Geo. Washington Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, in which he made this declaration:

In Canada the conditions are such—and I know of no liberal who took any other ground—that free trade is impracticable.

That is a very good sentiment, but it sounds strange coming from the lips of a leader in the Liberal party, after our experience of the last ten or fifteen years. Then we have the mover of the address in the Commons the other day declaring that the Liberal party never pledged themselves to adopt free trade principles. Let us see what some of them said. Mr. Laurier, the present premier, at the Ottawa conference in 1893, made this declaration:

We shall never rest until it (protection) is wiped out entirely.