

success would be assured to them. The Premier himself, in speaking on that subject, said :

Our duty is to Canada and not to England. Just as the British government teaches this government that the first duty of the British government is to England and not to Canada so I insist that in all these matters, it is for any self-governing colony to look to its own interests first, last and always.

And, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), said :

It is quite clear to any one who will carefully study those trade returns and will study the figures which I submitted before recess, that the United States market, if it were only made free, is worth more than twice over to Canada that of all the rest of the world put together. It is perfectly clear that it is the only market open to us for a great amount of our productions.

These are the statements with which these hon. gentlemen went about the country. They endeavoured to secure the votes of the farmers on the ground that the Conservative administration had told them time and again that no trade relations could be gained with the United States, that would be beneficial to the country, except at a sacrifice of manufacturing industries, which the Conservatives were not prepared to be responsible for. These hon. gentlemen went east and west and north and south and held out this line of policy to the farmers. Either they knew nothing of what they were talking about, or else they were talking dishonestly, for the Premier last year—although he had made the strong statement, that there was no market in the world so valuable as that of the United States, speaking on the 21st of March—he said :

There was a time when Canadians, beginning with the hon. gentleman himself, would have given many things to obtain the American market; there was a time not long ago when the market of the great cities of the union was the only market we had for any of our products. But, thank heaven! those days are past and over now.

It cannot be that in three years, the whole face of trade has been so completely changed. It simply meant that these hon. gentlemen when they went about the country in 1892, were not conversant with the trade matters of the country, when they made their pledges to the agricultural class, that if they came into power they would go in for a policy of reciprocity. Now, this statement of the Premier was made in 1899, the time when he, himself, stated that he did not believe there was anything to be gained by a reciprocity treaty. When did the change come over his mind? If he was honest in that opinion, then the country could well ask the hon. gentlemen why they went through the farce of the Washington conference and entail on the country an expenditure of \$35,000 for nothing. It will be a matter of interest to the farmers of this country, from whom these large duties on tobacco and

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sugar are being taken, to pay the swelling expenditures of this country, to know where some of that money has gone. It may be well that our farmers could know something of this matter, and I propose that the farmers of East Simcoe, at any rate, shall have the facts placed before them. Of the \$35,000 spent on this Washington conference, the Premier (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), drew \$3,821, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), drew \$3,361, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), drew \$2,630, Mr. Charlton, \$1,766, and Mr. Bourassa, secretary, \$2,200. It will be seen that Mr. Charlton, who was admitted to be the business man of the combination, was more intent on looking after the business than on high living, because his expenses are very much less than those of any of the others. It is scandalous that men should go on a trip of this kind and spend money as they did. Look at some of the items: Banquet at the Shoreham, \$600; floral wreath for Lord Herschell, \$40. One would have thought that they would have paid for their colleagues floral wreath. They paid \$52 for photographs. I suppose they were photographs of the quartette. Entertainment, \$1,637; tips to servants, \$407. Why, it is stated in Washington to-day, that as soon as a Canadian touches the city, the coloured waiters gather around him thinking he is an ambassador from Canada, and is prepared to turn out tips amounting to hundreds of dollars. I am surprised that these hon. gentlemen have the face to place in the public reports, the fact that paltry tips for servants at the table, are paid out of the public till. Cabs cost \$219. It is evident that they did not walk all the time. One grief-stricken minister went down to New York to attend Lord Herschell's funeral, and he carefully charged \$128 for his expenses. Well, Sir, these are facts for the farmers to study over, as to how this economical government dissipates the money of the people. Look at it all through. The humbugged farmer, humbugged on the matter of agricultural implements, humbugged by having free corn brought into the country, humbugged on the reciprocity deal, humbugged in every direction, looks about him for sympathy, and the first man he meets is the humbugged temperance man, and the humbugged temperance man is very much in evidence in this country at the present time; he is endeavouring to deal a blow at these gentlemen similar to what the temperance people in Manitoba dealt to the late Premier, Mr. Greenway. Now, where do we find this government on the question of prohibition? It will be within the recollection of the temperance people of the country that a few years ago a large deputation waited on the late Sir John Thompson, and he announced then that the policy of the Conservative party was not to introduce a prohibition measure owing to the fact that he did not believe such a measure could be