

would ever adopt, and which it is only recently they could be got to adopt. It looks now certainly as if the policy of the politicians who at present have the confidence of that country, is to exclude Canadian products from the United States altogether. It would be unstatesmanlike for Canadian politicians to ignore that fact. It is no doubt our duty to bear in mind the actual conditions, and to take whatever course which is thought best for the country after the very fullest consideration. I do not suggest at all retaliation, but retaliation is one thing and our own safety is quite another. I think it was while discussing this subject that my hon. friend interrupted himself a little for the purpose of saying flattering things about the hon. member from Bothwell. I am glad that my hon. friend appreciates my hon. friend from Bothwell. If he had appreciated him in the past more fully than he has done, if he had appreciated the results of that thought and study which my hon. friend from Bothwell gives to these questions, my hon. friend would not be occupying the position he is now, or his party would not be in the position they are in now, for they would be doing good to the country instead of harm. My hon. friend next referred to the subject of the coal duty. My hon. friend speaks of an announcement which the Minister of Finance made in Montreal as being a very improper thing. My hon. friend says that the object of that announcement was to affect the elections in Nova Scotia. My hon. friend is entirely wrong about that.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—You are confounding what was said in the lower House. I never referred at all to the elections.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—You never referred to the coal duties?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Yes, but not to the elections. That was said in the lower House.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—I thought my hon. friend also did say that.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I did not say it, but I meant it.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—My honourable friend has said it now. He was ashamed to say it a little while ago, but he

says it now. Since my honourable friend was ashamed to say it a little while ago, I should be ashamed to have to reply to it. An objection to the announcement to a change in the tariff arises if the communication is made privately, or to some particular person or persons. An announcement which everybody hears, which is published from one end of the country to the other, is not subject to that objection. It may be deliberately made, it may be made in the interests of the country, it may be made for a great public purpose. Just before that announcement was made it had been announced that a bill was to be introduced in the United States Congress, with every expectation of its being carried, by which the heavy duty of 75 cents should be put on our coal, and while our coal goes into some parts of their country, and their coal into some parts of our country, it would not do to allow their coal to come in free while our coal was heavily taxed, almost to prohibition, in their country, and Mr. Fielding therefore made an announcement which he was authorized to make, having reference, not to bituminous coal only, which was the only coal we exported to the United States, but also to anthracite which we import into Canada. My honourable friend will not find it laid down anywhere that an announcement of that kind for a definite purpose, called for by a circumstance which was important to the country, and which we had to deal with, was such an announcement as a government has no right to make. My honourable friend rather insinuates that communications were made to certain persons of other changes contemplated, in consequence of which mills at Kingston have recommenced operations, and some whisky friends of the honourable member—

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No, they are no whisky friends; they are not in trade at all.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—Well, some friends.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No, they are friends of my hon. friend; they are Grits.

Hon. Sir OLIVER MOWAT—If they are my friends, I should rather they made their living in some other way than by the whisky transaction which he mentioned, but my hon.