

tional Policy, and would as far as possible prevent that system being attacked or broken down. So far from adopting such a tone as that adopted by the Finance Minister on this occasion, our principal opponent in the contest did not meet us by attacking protection or denouncing the duty on coal, but he attacked us because we had not succeeded in getting the protection on coal raised to a much higher point. It cannot have escaped the notice of the Finance Minister that Mr. Edward Macdonald, in canvassing the county—and he was the only candidate who appeared before the people in the county—claimed that we had not given to the coal industry even so much protection as the revenue tariff to which the hon. gentleman referred, and maintained that we had been derelict in our duty in not seeing that 20 per cent protection at least was given to coal, which he maintained was not done. He attacked us also because we had been supporting a party which had made anthracite coal free, thereby to a certain extent displacing from the markets of Canada the bituminous coal of the county of Pictou. During the whole of that contest, the Liberal candidates, far from adopting the same tone as the Finance Minister, went to the other extreme, and represented themselves as being thoroughly and heartily in favour of increasing the protection on coal; and I think it would have been a most amazing thing to the people of our county, if they could have been here to-day and heard the very vigorous way in which the Finance Minister attacked that position. At the close of that canvass our opponent, not satisfied with giving the electors of the county the assurance that he would support protection, produced a telegram from the Hon. Mr. Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, and as they hoped soon to become the Premier of Canada, in which he assured the people of the county of Pictou that protection to coal would be continued, and that the interests of the coal miners of that county would be carefully guarded. In order that no evasion or mistake might exist in reference to this matter, occasion was taken by my hon. colleague (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to ask the Premier of Canada in this House precisely what he meant by the statement that the interests of the coal miners of the county of Pictou would be carefully guarded; and the Premier in his reply did everything short of confirming by an oath his previous statement, because he repeated in the strongest possible way his previous statement, merely changing the order of the terms of it. He said that in saying that those interests would be carefully guarded, he had meant that they would be guarded carefully. He went to the extreme in saying that he was honestly in favour of thoroughly supporting those interests, and I am not sure that but for that statement the gentleman who polled a very good vote in the county of Pictou would not

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

have come within hundreds of polling the vote he got. I merely mention this to show that the Finance Minister is entirely mistaken as to the temper and opinions and hopes of the people of the county of Pictou on this question. Here is another thing to show how the friends of the hon. gentleman approached the miners when speaking in the interests of the Liberal party in that county. Here is a little circular which was issued in the county of Pictou in the local elections:

A Roorback Exploded—A Campaign Lie Nailed.

The "special despatch" issued by the Conservative party, is untrue from beginning to end. It was written by arrangement, with a view to mislead the electors. Coal is not to be free under the new tariff. But there will be a duty of 75 per cent on soft coal, and a retaliatory duty on hard coal.

Anthracite coal and coke will not be free, as it was under the late Government, but will have to pay duty under the Liberal Government.

Electors, do not be misled by false telegrams, sent out at the last moment, but stand by the men who alone to-day are able to help the coal industry.

Vote for McDonald, McGregor, and McIntosh, the true friends of the coal industry.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Will my hon. friend read the other one to which reference is made?

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I have not the other in my hand.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I thought not. I see from what the hon. gentleman reads that it refers to something else. I understand that it refers to a statement which, I was informed, was circulated throughout the county of Pictou on the eve of the last election, that the Government had declared to somebody that they were going to abolish the coal duty.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It was said by your own leader, too.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman has shown nothing of the sort.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). It was said by him at Windsor Hall and at Sohmer Park.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman did not refer to something said at Windsor Hall or Sohmer Park, but to something stated at Ottawa during the present session.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Which was consistent with the statement made at Sohmer Park.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). What the friends of the hon. gentleman said was that coal was not to be free under the new tariff.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is true, but the other statement is not.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). But that there would be a duty of 75 cents on soft coal and a retaliatory duty on hard coal.