

in August of last year there was a serious depression hanging over this country. Building permits fell off, customs duties were reduced and in October, immediately after the elections, the revenue again became buoyant, building permits increased and we have gone ahead with the greatest year of prosperity in the history of our country. What have we lost by not having reciprocity? Our trade three years ago was about \$750,000,000. Last year it was about \$850,000,000. This year I hope it will be about \$950,000,000.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Where is the bulk of our trade?

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): The bulk of our trade is with the United States.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Hear, hear.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): I have no objection to my hon. friend saying 'hear, hear' to that. My hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) said the other day that the policy of this party was under no circumstances to have truck or trade with the Yankees.

Mr. OLIVER: That was the declared policy of our friends during the election; that was their slogan.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): My right hon. friend (Mr. Borden) says that he never said anything of the kind.

Mr. OLIVER: I did not accuse him of saying so, but I say it was the slogan of his party.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): Let us clear that up here and now. What was the objection of my right hon. friend (Mr. Borden), and I think of every other member on this side of the House, to the Reciprocity Agreement? The objection was the fact of the agreement itself, among other things the fact that we would surrender control of our fiscal policy to a great nation to the south. Nobody in Canada who has any sense has any objection to buying from the United States or selling to the United States if you buy over the tariff wall that has been erected in accordance with the requirements of each country. If my right hon. friend wants to buy something in the United States I have no objection to his buying it if he brings it in, but I do object to his making an agreement which will deliver our tariff in regard to such an important list of products over to the House of Congress of the United States.

Mr. OLIVER: It would enable us to sell in the United States as well as buy.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): We can sell in the United States to-day.

Mr. OLIVER: We cannot.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds):—but we cannot control their duty.

Mr. OLIVER: But we had control of it by reciprocity.

Mr. WHITE (Leeds): And my hon. friend says we had control of it, but how long could we control it? They could control our tariff for an indefinite time by the very force of their importance, as compared to ours. However, I shall not argue that now. As I said, we retain control of our own affairs. My right hon. friend was in a critical frame of mind, a very critical frame of mind. This country is prospering as it never has been before, but he is not contented with its prosperity. Its revenues are higher than they have ever been before, but my right hon. friend is not satisfied with our revenues apparently. The real fact of the matter is, my right hon. friend is dissatisfied that he is not on this side of the House. I am afraid it is a case of Dr. Fell. I say that with some reluctance, but I cannot understand the position of my right hon. friend otherwise. He has assailed this Government on the ground that we do nothing. He says that this Government does nothing. If this Government has done anything it has not been by reason of the fact that my right hon. friend has not tried to prevent us from doing it, for he obstructed some of the best measures we brought down to the House last year. Let us take some of the things we have done, though we have only been in power a little over a year.

One of the first things we did was to enlarge the boundaries of Manitoba. A general resolution on that subject was passed in this House in 1907, and though my hon. friend was four years longer in office, so far as I can see, he took no step towards enlarging the boundaries of Manitoba. This Government immediately took the question up. It was not the easiest question in the world to handle; my right hon. friend did not want to grapple with it; he delayed; but this Government carried out its promise, and put Manitoba on the same basis as the other provinces in the West. Manitoba was a postage stamp on the map before it turned it into an envelope, and we put into it a couple of million dollars of arrears of pay which she should have had long ago.

Then, take the naval policy. I am not going to discuss the naval question; but what about our naval policy? Last year, when we had been only a few weeks in office, my right hon. friend complained that we had not brought down our naval policy. What are the facts? The first Imperial conference to consider the question