

call the attention of the hon. member for South York to it, that long after he and I have disappeared, should the question of maintaining the rights guaranteed to us under the British North America Act arise, should the question arise of upholding the dignity of this country's institutions amongst the foremost provinces to uphold that dignity and those rights will be the province of Quebec. We have heard a great deal about the question of annexation. I would like to quote a page of Canadian history to my hon. friend, and to a few other hon. gentlemen to whom it may do some good. I had the curiosity, while listening to what has been said on the subject of annexation by certain hon. gentlemen opposite, to try to find out where the question of annexation really arose, and in whose mind the idea first took root. I find that it originated in the minds of gentlemen allied with members sitting on the opposite side of the House. I find that so eminent an authority in the Conservative party as Sir John Rose spoke very strongly upon the question of annexation, and, though many people in this country may not be aware of it, Sir John Rose was Minister of Finance in a Conservative administration. Speaking at the time of the famous annexationist manifesto, he said this:

To protract is cruelty; and are we unmanly enough to leave as a legacy to our children a task from the performance of which we shrink ourselves?

The hon. member (Mr. Maclean, York) must know that the talk of annexation did not arise with the Liberals of the province of Quebec, but chiefly with the members of the Conservative party. The Liberal party has always been true to this country, the province of Quebec has always been true to this country, and to our institutions. It would be more honourable, in discussing a commercial bargain between the United States and Canada, to appeal to Canada as a whole and not to sections of the country.

Amendment (Mr. Monk) agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to, and House went into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. H. B. AMES (St. Antoine, Montreal). I suppose the House is now prepared to settle down to a businesslike discussion, and to deal with the question before us without heat and without partisanship. I hope that we may be able to weigh dispassionately the pros and cons of this proposition. I think the people of this country have been waiting with a little disappointment for a more businesslike discussion of the resolution now before the House. I realize that what I am about to say, is capable of being rejected or

Mr. DEVLIN.

accepted by men of good faith on both sides of the House.

The year 1910 has been a record year for Canada. Never has prosperity been greater or more widespread. Our farmers have had good harvests and high prices, our manufacturers have enlarged their output and have increased their plant. There have been great works of public utility and transportation undertaken and carried on to a successful conclusion. Our aggregate trade in 1910 has been greater than in any previous year in the history of Canada. Our banks are increasing their capital, and enlarging their business. During last year credit has been good and payments have been sound, and there has been throughout the country a feeling of optimism, and a feeling of confidence in our selves and in one another. Canada has admittedly been doing well, she has been treading along safe and conservative lines, along lines that should be, and are I believe, satisfactory to the sound judgment of the country as a whole. We can find optimism everywhere, and confidence is general. Now, suddenly, without the slightest warning, and like a bolt out of the clear sky, this government comes into the House and flings upon the table a proposition which alters our fiscal policy that for the last forty years has been profitably pursued on the same lines. This agreement, we are told, must be accepted in its entirety, without any amendment in even a word or a syllable. The whole proposition stands or the whole proposition falls.

Now, we have had tariff revisions before. I can remember them ever since 1893, but I never remember an occasion before when a tariff was taken into consideration with a view of amending it that there has not been ample opportunity afforded to all persons interested to be heard, to state their wishes, and to talk over their needs with the ministers, and only after such consideration, has the tariff been amended. The hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) remembers that in 1907 he brought in a Bill to amend our tariff; and that Bill was altered if I remember rightly in a score of items before it finally passed the House. That is the way to make a tariff. In that way it is possible for interests to be heard, it is possible for injustices to be remedied before it is too late; and Canada, maintaining her own fiscal independence, is able to make a tariff under which all her people may prosper.

Now, we are just beginning to wake up to the consequences of this far-reaching proposition. Every day some new group of people in the country are beginning to realize that this is affecting them, that it is affecting the country; whereas a few weeks ago, or a few days ago, they