

the future may have in store if in the turn of the wheel of political fortune hon. gentlemen now sitting opposite should be entrusted with the reins of office in this country, I only wish to express the hope that they will then be as sincere in their position on this question as they purport to be at the present time. For the reasons I have given, Mr. Speaker, and particularly because this is not the proper time to introduce or discuss this resolution, I intend to vote against it; and I have no doubt whatever in that my action in so doing will be understood by the country.

Mr. JOSEPH READ (Prince, P.E.I.): Mr. Speaker, my name has been brought into this debate by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. M. Clark) who made the assertion that during my speech on the Address I declared we could not have an election just now, and that I was going to support the present Government by giving them good advice, and helping them in every way I could, as long as I thought they were right. Another hon. gentleman (Mr. McIsaac) in his criticism of my speech stated that I had at one time been a follower of the late Sir John A. Macdonald.

Hon. Mr. REID: Hear, hear.

Mr. JOSEPH READ: It was true, and I am proud of it, because at that time Sir John A. Macdonald was the strongest advocate of Reciprocity in Canada. However, it does not make any difference; if I get sufficient new facts at any time to justify me in changing my mind I am going to do so. I believe that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." The wise man may change his mind several times, but the fool never. My mind has been changed since I made the appeal referred to. What do hon. gentlemen suppose caused me to change my mind? I almost gave my Western friends the assurance—I am sure I gave them the assurance—that the interests of my province down by the seas were identical with theirs. We are a farming population, purely and simply, in Prince Edward Island, and our interests are identical with those of Western Canada; and I told my friends to-day, when they were talking about bringing in this motion: "Bring it in and let those Western people have a chance to save themselves." I hold in my hand a little paper, the only Liberal paper published in the city of Charlottetown. It is called *The Patriot*, a paper once owned and established by the late Hon. David Laird, the great Liberal that hon. gentlemen from the Northwest at one

[Mr. Crerar.]

time had out there taking care of their interests. Here is an advertisement which takes up practically the whole front page of this paper, and it reminds me of the anti-reciprocity dodgers of 1911. Those people went down there and bought up the space in every paper they could get in the Maritime Provinces in order to debauch public opinion. Listen to this extract from the advertisement:

At the very moment when Canada is struggling with this problem—

That is, the problem of raising the revenue.

—the Western Grain Growers come forward with insistent demands for:

An immediate and substantial all-round reduction of the customs tariff.

Free Trade with Great Britain inside of five years.

Reciprocity now, and Free Trade later with the United States.

Then the advertisement goes on to say—

An hon. MEMBER: Who signs it?

Mr. READ: The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the particular and especial friends of the hon. gentlemen who occupy the Government benches.

Mr. DEVLIN: What does the advertisement say further?

Mr. READ: This is what it says:

These demands are apparently made in the hope and belief that, if they are granted, those making them will be relieved of a large part of what they call the "Burden of Taxation," which the tariff imposes upon them.

They may argue that under a lower tariff the volume of goods imported will increase, and consequently there will be no decrease in the revenue. But mark this: they want the duty removed entirely from implements, lumber, cement, oil and other articles of which they are large consumers. If the revenue is to be maintained under such a rearrangement of the tariff schedules, other classes of the people must pay what the Grain Growers will escape.

It is pretty nearly time that the Grain Growers begin to do something. My province, as I said before, has identical interests with the great provinces of the west, particularly the three prairie provinces. What has happened in our province through this tariff, the brightest province in the Dominion—that province which nature has done more for to the square mile than any other province in the Dominion of Canada; the jewel of the Dominion? This is what has happened: That province has become absolutely depopulated through forty years of this tariff—forty years of protection. When we were an autonomous province doing our own business, and doing it well, the whole revenue was raised by a ten per