

report to the Government, and the whole question was then given that full, fair and serious consideration which its great importance demanded.

The result of the deliberations of the Government was the adoption of the present trade policy, which was a judicious, business-like, well-considered, and very material measure of reform. The chief features of that policy were:

First. A reduction in the average rate of taxation of about ten per cent. from the rate under the Conservative tariff of 1896.

Second. The transference to the free list of a large number of articles which are necessities of the farmer, such as binder twine, barb and other fencing wire, Indian corn, cream separators, and a reduction in the rates of many other articles of necessity to the farmer and people generally.

Third. A reduction in the rates of duty on iron and steel and coal, and the transference to the free list of many articles of raw material, thus stimulating manufacturing industries.

Fourth. An increase in the duties on wines, spirits, cigars and other luxuries, and,

LAST, but by no means least, the granting of a substantial preference to the goods of Great Britain.

The wisdom of that policy is reflected in the prosperous condition of the country since its adoption. It is generally considered by all who have taken the trouble to study the question, that the new tariff was a very fair measure of tariff reform and a well-considered step in the right direction.

The Government gave careful thought to the conditions of trade in all parts of the Dominion, and framed a tariff based upon revenue, not protection, as a principle, a tariff which does injustice to no class, which is simple in classification, and which materially reduced the burdens of the people.

Liberals stand to-day upon the same tariff platform that they stood upon in 1896 and 1900. But some Conservatives, upon finding themselves in districts where high protection is unpopular, try to distract attention from themselves by attributing protectionist views to the Liberals. The best answer to such allegations can be obtained from Conservative sources. In the first place we have the testimony (already quoted) of Mr. D. Henderson, M.P. for Halton, that the Liberals have not "stolen our protectionist clothes." And we