

Mr. Taylor for years, and then he made way for my hon. friend (Sir Thomas White) to take his place. Why, without the anti-reciprocity cry the Minister of Finance could not have had a look-in in the county of Leeds. What must be the anguish of the people in that constituency to-day as they find that the hon. gentleman has flung aside the very ladder by which he climbed into power. So I say that while I have great joy in the conversion of my hon. friend, while I welcome him and express my gladness for the returning sanity and health that has come to him, at the same time I must pay some regard to these suffering people whom he has, shall I say, deceived and betrayed—no, these are harsh words—who have been misled by the belief that he was really my opponent on reciprocity.

I am very sorry I have not kept my promise to speak very briefly. There are other features of the tariff question that I should like to speak about, but it is too late and too warm.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. FIELDING: I will be content with the observations I have already made, and thank the House very much for its attention.

Mr. JAMES ARTHURS (Parry Sound): The hour is late, and I have no desire to delay hon. gentlemen, but I can assure the hon. member who has just resumed his seat that the Sons of England and the British-born of Toronto will still vote in the regular old way; they will not be misled by any argument as to whether or not they were right in the matter of reciprocity in 1911. The hon. gentleman has said that we have recently received reciprocity. I might correct him by saying that while our duties in Canada have been lowered to the level of those proposed by the United States, the American duties were lowered within six months or one year from the time reciprocity was defeated by these very same Sons of England and the British-born.

One of the other points made by the hon. gentleman was that we have to pay a debt approximately six times that which existed in 1911, when he was Minister of Finance, and he endeavours to throw the responsibility of that upon the members of the present Government and particularly upon the Minister of Finance. I believe that every man in Canada, irrespective of politics, is proud of the fact that we have that debt. It is entirely due to the fact that Canada took her proper and legitimate place in the war that has so lately ended,

[Mr. Fielding.]

and furthermore the Government is not responsible for one dollar or one cent of the difference between the debt of 1911 and the debt of 1914. As a matter of fact, the exact opposite is the case. If normal conditions had prevailed the debt would have been reduced by the surplus of each year.

The hon. gentleman sees evidences of trouble in Canada during the coming winter. I would like to ask him whether he thinks that by supporting the amendment he will better conditions in this country? It is absolutely essential to the interests of Canada, whether it be Ottawa or any other city in the Dominion, that our workmen should be employed. If these workmen are to be employed, and we must necessarily keep at work, we must establish stable conditions and the amendment of the hon. member for Brome will bring about the exact opposite of that.

We have two debates in Parliament, year by year, in which members can express their general ideas on the affairs of the country—to wit, the debate on the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne, and the Budget debate. I might say, in order to allay all suspicion, and to follow the example of the hon. gentleman who has preceded me, that I intend to vote against the amendment and for the proposals brought in by the Finance Minister. I say this because I believe the amendment is not brought in in good faith, it is one of the old camouflage motions with which we are so familiar, and while I do not agree altogether with the financial propositions of the Minister of Finance, I think he is, in these propositions, making an honest effort to unite the different interests in Canada.

During this debate we have had all schools of thought represented. We have had the opinions of the hon. member for Red Deer, the only outstanding apostle of free trade. I say "only" and the hon. gentleman shakes his head at the statement. Probably he may have obtained a convert, but I do not know of one. We have had the views of gentlemen who were in favour of protection only on luxuries, or in other words that all the necessaries of life should be freed. We have had hon. gentlemen like the leader of the Opposition who believe that all the unrest in Canada is due to the fact that unfortunately two years ago we passed what is known as the War-time Elections Act and debarred certain aliens from voting in Canada. Then we have heard an hon. gentleman on the opposite side, to wit the member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler) express the belief