

opposite gulled this country into the belief that we could not do trade with the United States, forsooth, because both countries are raising the same kind of stuff.

There is another feature in regard to this, we are surmounting a higher tariff than they are; we are climbing a higher wall and still passing that stuff over the wall. Of all the frivolity of mankind Nero is supposed to be the greatest example the world has seen, he fiddled while Rome was burning. But I want to say that Nero was a serious minded person compared with my hon. friend (Mr. Foster). If the Fernie miners in the Crownsnest Pass had got free coke as they would have got under the pact, as opposed to a ninety per cent tariff against that coke, we should have done more trade from the Fernie mines than you will do under this pact, that is, in coke alone. Would that have ended with the Fernie mines in the Crownsnest Pass? Our friends opposite are supposed to be the great exponents of the building of industries in this country, but they stand not for the building of industries but for the restriction of industries. I was travelling across this continent the other day with a gentleman who knows the Fernie coal trade well, and he told me that at the present moment they raise in the Fernie mines from 2,000 to 3,000 tons of coal every day, and with the exception of what is sold in the immediate area of the mines, where it is raised, every ounce of that coal goes to the United States. And yet our friends opposite say you cannot trade there, you have to go to the West Indies or to the Antipodes to do so. That gentleman told me further that the present plant of the mines could put out from 5,000 to 6,000 tons a day. I asked him 'could they sell that extra coal in the States?' He said they would sell it as coke, and these men, when the matter was under discussion, were prepared to build coke ovens.

Mr. TURRIFF : There are hundreds idle to-day; they have been built already.

Mr. CLARK : The coke ovens must be idle because they are not in existence.

Mr. TURRIFF : They are idle; they are built in now.

Mr. CLARK : They should have built these coke ovens. I would not ask a child of ten to assent to my proposition that it would have been a benefit to Fernie and district. Does the hon. gentleman opposite believe in his heart—because he and his friends claim to be the great builders of industry—that this would have been any great hurt to the prairie? My hon. friends believe in the home market. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce used to be a great apostle of the home market, but he seems to have changed that. Now he

is going in for foreign commerce and he is going in for it with a vengeance. He reminds me of a story I once heard of two Scotchmen who were riding out one day. They saw a man whom they both knew very well and he resembled the Minister of Trade and Commerce in that he was in an unaccustomed role. These Scotchmen had always seen this man in the kilts, but upon this occasion he was observed to be wearing an extremely wide pair of trousers. One of the Scotchmen commented upon the same circumstance and the other replied: 'Converts are always enthusiastic.' When the Minister of Trade and Commerce goes in for foreign commerce he takes a long journey for that purpose. Would it have hurt the plains to have built these coke ovens? Where do they get their agricultural products in Fernie and district now?—in Alberta and Saskatchewan. It would have put fresh settlers on the plains just as surely as supply follows demand. Would it have hurt Ontario—poor frightened, loyal Ontario? Where would the machinery, which would have gone into Fernie, have come from if not from Ontario? Where would the extra settlers on the plains have got their boots, shoes and clothes?—from Ontario, the place from which they get such a large quantity now. This pact would not have hurt any man, woman or child in Canada, but it would have given an enormous impetus to the trade of this country and conferred a tremendous benefit on every one. Hon. gentlemen opposite may laugh and they may think that this is a trifling matter. It may be a trifling matter to people who are always spending their time in Empire building, who are saving the British Empire every three weeks, but it is no trifling matter to the men who are living on the plains and who are the real Empire builders. It is no trifling matter to men who have put their all in the land out there and who are doing the duty of landlord, tenant and labourer and doing it without the ability to dispose of their produce. It is not much consolation to the men who lost that trade pact that we have made a little bit of an arrangement with the West Indies and that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce has, after twenty-one years' hard work, got down to real business on this question of preference at the very moment when the British end of the thing has broken down, and the creature having died at the heart, the remains are pretty sure to follow on short notice.

Hon. W. T. WHITE (Minister of Finance): It was not my intention to take any part in this discussion, and it is not my intention to occupy at any great length the time of the House. But my hon. friend from Red Deer (Mr. Clark) has honoured me with