

far as it was not honest, it was a huge scheme of robbery. . . . Their ideal is protection; ours is free trade. We will never desist until this country is freed from the incubus that has been weighing it down for fifteen long years.

The right hon. leader of the Opposition spoke in the city of Winnipeg on one of his western tours. I remember well his coming to my own constituency, and speaking in the town of Selkirk, bringing with him the late Hon. D. C. Fraser, then member of this House for Guysborough; and I remember very well that at this meeting this is what he said:

The people of this country, the inhabitants of the city of Winnipeg especially, are toiling for a master who takes away a very large portion of your earnings, the earnings for which you toil and sweat for privileged masters, for those who use protection which I claim is bondage. If the Government take away from you any portion of your earnings, be they large or small, to give them to somebody else, that Government is as much a robber towards you as is the highwayman who puts a pistol to your head and says: your purse or your life. I denounce this policy of protection. Protection cannot be defended on any fair principle.

I also wish to call the attention of the House—because it affects my own province—to the utterance on behalf of the Liberal party of that day, by a leading member of the Liberal Government and the pledge he made to the people of the West:

Return us to power, and we will give you free trade as they have it in England. That is the Liberal policy. We will no longer tolerate the policy of the Conservatives which robs you for the benefit of a handful of manufacturers. We will at once and for ever wipe off the statute book the villainous protection policy which has stunted the prosperity of the whole country and taken the heart's blood out of the people of Manitoba. Free coal oil, free clothing, and free implements you will have if the Liberal party are returned to power.

This is the statement of Hon. Mr. (now Sir Clifford) Sifton, a man who was the right-hand man of the present leader of the Opposition when at the head of the Government, and the strongest of his ministers from the West; in fact, he was known as the dictator of the Liberal policy; and this is the pledge he gave, speaking for his party. And what did they do when they came into power? One of the first things, Mr. Speaker, was to take into the Senate two of the greatest sinners, perhaps, so far as the West is concerned—Sir Melvin Jones and Hon. Mr. Frost. That is the way they carried out their pledge to give the farmers free implements. And for long years they did not even touch the duty on farm implements. At length they made up their minds that they must do something, that the farmers of the West could not be

fooled all the time, and on the eve of an election they reduced the tariff on agricultural implements from 20 per cent, where the Conservative Government had left it, to 17½ per cent. And the farmers were told by Sir Clifford Sifton that 17½ per cent was only a revenue tariff. This is the manner in which they fooled the farmers of the West into supporting them. They managed for fifteen years to pull the wool over the eyes of the farmers of the West by their promises to do something year after year. But the day came when the farmers had their eyes opened. As soon as the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) had the temerity to attempt to impose the reciprocity pact upon the people of this country, as soon as he attempted to make Canada an adjunct of the United States, the farmers of Canada turned him out of office.

What was their success in dealing with the tariff, in eliminating "every vestige of protection," as they promised to do? On every platform in Canada these pledges were made by responsible men and repeated by those irresponsible, that if the Liberals were returned to office they would eliminate every vestige of protection from the tariff. But in fifteen years of power, they succeeded in reducing the tariff just about two per cent. Why, Sir, the greatest reduction ever made in the National Policy tariff was made by the Conservative party itself, made by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster). And he is not a free trader. This party does not pose before the people as being a party of free traders. We believe in the National Policy; we have advocated it in season and out of season; we believe in fair protection to farmer and manufacturer alike; there is no hypocrisy in the position we occupy before the people. But hon. gentlemen opposite declare themselves to be against protection. My hon. friend from Red Deer (Mr. Clark) on all occasions since being placed in opposition has preached the doctrine of free trade—a beautiful theory but utterly impracticable in this country, and proven impracticable in the world generally. History tells us that when Cobden introduced free trade in England, he declared that within a few years the world would adopt free trade. And to-day we find that the world is protectionist everywhere except in Great Britain.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: Hear, hear.

Mr. BRADBURY: "Hear, hear," says the hon. gentleman—