

(Mr. Wood) were not thorough and honest on the subject, there might be a doubt expressed also respecting his amendment, as it had only a partial appearance. The first part of the right hon. gentleman's resolution asked the House to express regret at the financial policy submitted by the Government increasing the burden of taxation on the people without any compensating advantage to Canadian industries. There was this to say about that matter: While he (Mr. Blain) did not agree with the manner in which the revenue was raised, yet, with that exception, there could be no hesitation in saying that the finances of this country had been ably managed. He was not prepared to vote for the amendment, being coupled as it was with a censure upon the Government. The second part of the resolution said that the deficiency in the revenue should be met by a diminution of expenses, aided by such a re-distribution of the tariff as would benefit and foster the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the Dominion. These words "agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests" seemed to take men's ears. If his hon. friend the Minister of Public Works were to strike out of the supplies, from the capital account, \$2,000,000, it would simply mean that the tariff should be re-distributed so that the duties should be lower. The right hon. member for Kingston had brought before the House a proposition which he wanted hon. members to think would meet the requirements of the country—that the tariff should be readjusted in order that the small deficiency would be made up. There was considerable force in what had been said that, at this time, when the industries of the country were depressed, it would be infinitely wiser that the enterprises of the country should not be deranged by a reorganization of the tariff, but that they should endeavour to surmount the difficulty in some other way, for it was conceded that it was temporary. The right hon. gentleman had tacked to a general censure of the Government this expression, which sounded well: "As will benefit and foster the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the Domininn." But

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there was no principle in the amendment. After the great speeches heard last summer all over the country, this was a most miserable attempt to impose on those who had honest convictions on that subject. It was matter for astonishment that, after the mountain had laboured, they should have such an amendment—an ill-conditioned mongrel instead of a thoroughbred; a thingill-shaped in every possible way,—that the right hon. gentleman should ask the House to accept it as the measure promised, and that he should send it out to the people and ask them to believe he was in earnest, or that anybody could be in earnest who submitted such a motion. It seemed quite clear that the right hon. gentleman intended to put a miserable proposition before the House. It was not fair to deal with the people and with Parliament in that manner, and such men as the hon. member for Hamilton and himself, who had honest convictions. Let the right hon. gentleman come forward with a resolution broadly and plainly declaring that the entire financial policy of the country should be based upon the broad principle of protection, and then they would believe in his honest convictions on that subject. He did not hesitate to say that, while he had always been a Protectionist, he could not vote for the amendment of the right hon. member for Kingston; he must vote against it. The next question which fairly came up was that of protection itself. He had endeavored to show to the House that we had no free trade, that there was no such thing as free trade anywhere in the world; he knew he was correct in that view, and he challenged any one to controvert the statement. There was nowhere unrestricted free trade, nor was any nation in a position to enforce strictly free trade. He had shown that the policy of the Liberals and Conservatives had always been, and he believed was at the present time, that the revenue should be raised under a tariff. If such were the case, he could not conceive in what way there could be any material distinction in principle between the two parties. While there might be a cry raised by one party, and gentlemen might find that it strengthened their hands, there