

gleefully announcing that it was seeking to make reciprocal arrangements with the United States. In 1911 we had an arrangement in black and white, the Taft-Fielding agreement.

Hon. Mr. POPE: It was too black.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not hear my honourable friend.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: He means it was too good.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We had that convention. It covered natural products, and was along the same lines as the treaty of 1854-66, which brought such prosperity to Canada that Sir John A. Macdonald never ceased looking towards Washington in the hope that the agreement would be renewed. He sent delegation after delegation. And when in 1878 or 1879 he brought forward his National Policy of protection, there was an annex to the Bill which stated that when the United States would signify its readiness to exchange products specified in the list—which was the same list as in the old treaty—the Government of Canada would by Order in Council do likewise. To everybody's surprise Congress ratified the proposal, and that ratification remained for years on the statute book of the United States. In fact I had occasion to state in this Chamber that in 1913, when leaving for Washington, I was requested by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to see President Wilson and ascertain whether he was favourably inclined towards the policy contained in the convention, and, if so, not to withdraw it, because he, Sir Wilfrid, intended at the following election to submit the treaty again for endorsement.

We are apt to see the sins of our opponents more clearly than our own, and I suppose it may be readily admitted that no one is infallible; but I dare any honourable member to say that it was not a grievous error to reject the reciprocity treaty of 1911. The objection then made to it was that it could be abrogated by the United States within six or twelve months. The Government is trying to negotiate another convention. I shall be very much surprised if it comes up to the level of the convention of 1911. I hope we shall live long enough to see the results of the negotiations, but I submit the 1911 arrangement as the standard for the next convention. And any convention, according to the powers given to President Roosevelt, can last only three years. Surely the convention of 1911 might have lasted as long. But it is useless to cry over spilled milk, and those familiar

with circumstances may not be ready to forgive the Conservative party for its actions in 1911. I hope it will redeem its reputation by succeeding in negotiating as good a convention as Mr. Fielding obtained in 1911.

The other measures promised in the Speech from the Throne I need not discuss at the moment, for when the bills come before us they will be examined on their merits. I simply draw the attention of my honourable friends facing me to the fact that the old Conservative party may perhaps have sole responsibility for implementing whatever radical legislation is brought before us. We used to speak of our friends opposite as members of the Liberal-Conservative party, resulting from the coalition of 1864 between the French-Canadian Liberals and the old Tory party of Ontario; but now I wonder if I am not facing the Radical Conservative party.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I am quite as prepared as I shall ever be to proceed with such remarks as seem to fit the moment, but I understand the honourable senator opposite has a certain engagement to-morrow which would make it convenient for him to speak now. If that be the case, I would ask that the usual order be departed from at this time, and that the honourable member speak at such length as he may choose to-night, and finish to-morrow. Then we shall go on in the regular way.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable members, I desire to thank the right honourable gentleman who leads this House with such ability and distinction for the great favour he is doing me. I happen on this particular occasion to be in opposition to both my own leader in another place and to the Right Honourable Mr. Bennett. Apparently they are both in favour of government ownership, and my remarks will be directed against public ownership.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As a matter of fact I did not speak on public ownership.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I do not believe in public ownership, whether municipal, provincial or federal. I am against it from the drop of the hat, and always have been. I think it is no good. It never has been any good and never will be. That is my opinion, but no one need follow me. It is not the first time I have been all alone in this House in the stand I have taken, but I have usually found that afterwards some honourable members came around to my point of view.

According to well established practice, I desire to congratulate the mover of the