

and you all saw these posters carrying from the east to the west the whisper of death, discouraging those who remained in the country, stopping at the borders those who wished to return home. You saw them, and I also saw them; these headlines aiming at throwing terror and fear among the population, in order to induce them to defeat the government. What happened? A number of votes were thus secured, but they were unable to defeat the government to whom, a few months later, the opportunity was given, not to start a campaign of terror and pessimism, but to send out to the whole population this cheering message which was so greatly applauded: Hope! Prosperity is returning, notwithstanding what may be said. Your shoulders were bent owing to the heavy burdens carried and for which we were not responsible; to-day we relieve you of these burdens, we relieve you of \$25,000,000 of taxes, in order that you may breathe more freely.

The people had been deprived of freedom, the Liberal government returns it to them. The country is entering on an era of prosperity, and it is to the everlasting glory of the Liberal government that they were able, notwithstanding innumerable difficulties to start it on its path towards its high destinies.

Mr. C. J. HAMILTON (Stormont): As brevity is the soul of wit and procrastination the thief of time I have decided to occupy very little of the time of this House in discussing the budget which is before us. This is the first occasion on which I have risen to speak in this House, and although I have passed the age allotted to men I have never been in a parliamentary assembly before coming here. In the early days of the session, while the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) was acting as Prime Minister, he offered very encouraging words to the younger members of the House, the substance of which was that every man in this House was on an equal footing and should therefore take an interest in the affairs of parliament and of the country. With that encouragement I rise to-night to show why I stand on this side of the House in defence of the doctrine of protection.

There are few members in this House who can recall the origin of the protective tariff enunciated by the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. In 1873 the government of Sir John A. Macdonald was in power, and as older members will recollect, during the regime of that administration the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was undertaken. While the preliminaries of that great enterprise were in progress a certain telegram

[Mr. Letellier]

was dispatched through the country, and being intercepted and brought into the House it necessitated the resignation of the Macdonald ministry. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie took office in November 1873, forming a cabinet of the most capable men in the country. He carried on until 1874 when he appealed to the electorate and succeeded in sweeping the country, coming back to the House with an enormous majority, Sir John Macdonald being in opposition with a very much reduced following. Strange to say, the conditions in the country financially, industrially and otherwise began to go from bad to worse, and Canada was in a depressed state. Practically all our industries were at a standstill and this situation continued until 1876 or 1877, when it became intensified. Delegation after delegation came to the House and were met with the answer that the governments of countries had no control over economic affairs, and that therefore the administration in power could offer no assistance. It was declared that governments, being mere flies on the wheel, could not help matters. In the meantime the condition throughout the country was in so deplorable a state, that to my personal knowledge Toronto and other cities in Ontario—I cannot speak for the other provinces—were crowded with soup kitchens, and men were going about begging for a ticket to get a piece of bread and a bowl of soup. This is not paper talk; it is personal knowledge, for I was a student in the University of Toronto at the time and I know whereof I speak. What I say can be corroborated by the hon. member for South York (Mr. Maclean), who was also a student with me. Delegations waited upon Sir John A. Macdonald and asked him whether he could do nothing to alleviate the distressing situation that prevailed. Sir John A. Macdonald inaugurated the National Policy and said:

The welfare of Canada requires the adoption of a National Policy. We are often asked, What is a National Policy? Gentlemen on the opposite side brought in a measure in a previous year which they called a National Policy, but it was practically free trade, but fell a little short of entire perfection by the necessities of revenue. The free trade which has been argued in England, which has been argued here, and which has been argued in the United States would never make a nation. There are national considerations that rise far higher than the mere accumulation of wealth, than the mere question of trade advantage, there is prestige, national status, national dominion, and no great nation has ever risen whose policy was free trade.

On another occasion in 1876 he spoke as follows:

We are informed in the Speech from the Throne that there is stagnation in trade. We are informed also