

tempted to adopt even a treaty of reciprocal trade with France, the Imperial Government took the ground that everything conceded must be given to Germany and Belgium and to all the other countries that had most-favoured-nation treaties with England. What has happened now? Why, the hon. gentleman was able to say: I have triumphed, never mind the solemn declaration that the First Minister made to the people of this country, and by which he has obtained power. Not only was he prepared to enjoy this triumph, but he resumed his old tone, and declared that the work had been accomplished, that free trade had been secured, and that he was in a position to strike down and paralyse all the industries of this country by doing the only thing that remains to the Government to do, that of extending this measure to Belgium and to Germany, and to every other country with which England has most-favoured-nation treatment. Then he said: Probably after all, it will be the United States as well, and we shall have free trade. This he said in the presence of his leader, who was bound in the most solemn manner that a man could be bound to the people of this country, by his promise to protect the industries of this country, by his promise that the manufacturers should not suffer if he obtained power—the hon. gentleman was able to say in the presence and in the hearing of his leader, that protection was a curse to this country. Now, what is the result? The result is that this tariff goes into operation, and the hon. gentleman knows that the industries of this country are already paralyzed in consequence. While hon. members gloat, vindictively gloat, over the destruction of Canadian industries, I was reading the wail, the sorrowful wail, of those industries in the Montreal "Gazette" where one manufacturer after another declared that their industries were ruined, that their mills must close, and that they saw staring them in the face a return to the deplorable state of things that existed when the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House was in charge of the fiscal policy of this country. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada. It would have been bad enough if the hon. gentleman had gone to the country with a frank avowal that they were in favour of what they had declared to be their policy for long years previously; it would have been bad enough if they had been able to get a majority pledged to sweep away these industries and to destroy the policy that had achieved so much for Canada; but to obtain power by the solemn declaration made publicly and privately all over this country that no harm would come to the manufacturing industries, that not a hair of their heads should be touched, that in fact their rights would be protected and their position would be improved, because they were going to have their raw material free, coal was to

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be made free—I say that under these circumstances I can understand how indignant the people of this country will feel at the outrage that has been inflicted upon them not by a fair, open, and manly declaration of policy, but by false pretenses, under the guise of solemn declarations that no harm would be done to the industries of this country. Now, the country is in this position, that because the Finance Minister has stupidly made a proposition that is utterly impracticable, and a violation of Imperial treaties, and which will cause the whole revenue Bill to become a nullity, the only recourse the Government have now is to adopt a second measure, to apply this clause to Belgium and Germany, and all other countries having similar treaties with England. Well, I can only say that if the policy were good in itself, the mode in which it has been accomplished is calculated to condemn it. I feel that far from rejoicing at it from a party standpoint, I deplore from the bottom of my heart the ruin that is going to be inflicted upon the best interests of Canada, and upon its great industries. Still, I unhesitatingly say that from a party point of view the hon. gentlemen are doing our work; they are showing the people of this country that no reliance can be placed upon the most solemn declarations that they make, either in the House or out of it; they are showing the people of this country that, having obtained power, which was all they wished for, they are now prepared to abuse that power at the cost of the sacrifice of the industries of Canada.

Now, I have a word or two to say in regard to the attempted explanation of the Finance Minister as to the coal question. That hon. gentleman has placed himself in a position such as no Minister of Finance in this or any other country ever placed himself. He stood up in his place in this House and declared in the presence of this House a truism, a thing that commended itself to the judgment of every man in this House—that for the Finance Minister to use his position to give the slightest intimation to any person before the Budget was brought down, of what that Budget would contain, or how it would affect any person, was an infamous act. I take the hon. gentleman's own statement as it appears in "Hansard," and I ask him how he stands in regard to that declaration. He admits that he did not receive even all the people interested, but he had a private interview with certain gentlemen connected with the great coal interest of this country, and he admits that he disclosed at that private interview, held in a private parlour, to a certain limited number of parties interested in the business, and without communicating with other parties within his reach or call, what the tariff on coal was to be. That is the position. And what excuse has he to offer? I disclosed to the House one of the basest con-