

*Customs Tariff Amendment*

which he made, and which I have frequently quoted with great approval, he said:

The most harmful slogan ever introduced into the consideration of western public matters was the cry, "down with eastern vested interests" which has developed into an attempt to organize the east against the west and the west against the east. Members of the party to which I belong, in the past were responsible for the introduction of that cry, and I pledged myself as a leader of that party to put forth every effort to remove from the appeals of the organization to which I belong, any such unworthy sentiment.

I am sure that those of us who have read with becoming modesty the report of the special committee on agricultural implements and its conclusions will realize how splendidly he has lived up to that declaration of faith. It is a matter of interest to read that statement at this time, because it expresses so clearly and neatly a consummation devoutly to be hoped for. I can only add that—

. . . the cry, "down with eastern vested interests,"

which was introduced by . . .

. . . the party to which I belong,—

I assume that that was not the Progressive party, but the party with which he was associated, which did incalculable harm to the country. I have frequently said when the minister was not in this house that his attitude commends itself to the judgment of every hon. member, but it makes the homogeneity of the government a little more difficult, for the flag that flies at Waterloo is not the flag that flew at Austerlitz; and conditions have changed since the appeal was being made to the electors, "shoulder to shoulder under the banner of victory"—

Mr. DUNNING: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister can hardly contain himself as he recalls those ancient days when he shouldered his crutch and showed how fields were won. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, in taking my seat I can only congratulate the government upon this masterly demonstration of their ability to hold under their banners troops who are marching to different objectives; who in times past marched shoulder to shoulder in a battalion to accomplish the defeat of a common enemy; and who, that victory having been won, find it no longer pleasant to reflect upon that past, and instead of fighting shoulder to shoulder, are now fighting back to back, not for the purpose of destroying protection but for the purpose of rendering some assistance to a downtrodden country. And in the meantime the consumer who is not a member of the league can but hope some day to join it.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance): I shall not endeavour to emulate my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett). I rise for two purposes only, first to congratulate him on having come through the session in such excellent good humour and in such good form as to be capable on this the last day of delivering an address replete with the wit that is so characteristic of him in his better moments, and to express the hope, which I am sure will be shared by all in this house regardless of party that the address to which we have just listened is not his swan song.

Mr. BENNETT: He has another one coming.

Mr. DUNNING: We have another one coming to-day, I know, and it will not be of quite the same character. The second purpose I had in rising was to protest as strongly as I can against the use of figures which, while in themselves correct possibly in relation to the matters discussed, do not present a correct picture of other matters that they develop.

Mr. BENNETT: They did, between 1930 and 1935.

Mr. DUNNING: To add a sales tax to a duty paid value in two years so far apart, two years in one of which the sales tax was one per cent and in the other eight per cent; and then to build an argument on that basis to convey what I am sure the general public would take from the remarks of my right hon. friend, namely, that the Liberal party was maintaining much higher tariff rates than are in fact the case, is something I must protest against. If one desired to apply the same method of calculation to the duties which were in effect between 1931 and 1935, why, of course, the results would appear utterly ridiculous; in fact, the figures would be astronomical.

And now may I thank all members of the house for their forbearance with me in my task this session of putting through a most complex series of tariff amendments as related to the trade agreement with Great Britain and with respect to our tariff generally. If I have appeared a little edgy at times I trust I shall be forgiven. I wish to thank all hon. members for the consideration they have shown in the very difficult discussions which it has been necessary to have.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

Mr. DUNNING: Perhaps it would suit the convenience of the house if I were to introduce the other two bills so that we might go into committee on the three of them at