

leader, and the other left the party and affiliated himself with the Conservatives, since when he has never been heard of politically. In view of his youth and Apollo-like figure, and the fact that my friend is a bachelor—I think he is; he looks like one—I am prepared to make this deal with him, for I am always ready to make a deal and to make a public one: I will give him the social element. He can be the leader at society functions. I will yield the party's dress suit if we find we have only one, to him on such occasions, if he will leave to me the more arduous but to me the more congenial task of carrying on the leadership in the House, and then we will have that most beautiful of things, peace and harmony in our young and vigorous party.

Coming to the amendments the one that will be taken first, I presume, has been well termed the economy amendment. I rather fail to understand why the government might not have accepted it. It is one of such a purely academic nature that nothing particular would happen if the government accepted it. It is true we want economy and thrift and honesty and virtue. These are all admirable qualities, and an academic recital of them would not have done the government any harm, and possibly would have pleased a certain number of members. However, I presume the government have a good precedent when they take the stand that it must be regarded as a vote of want of confidence. Before I pass from the subject of economy, I might mention that during the last recess I have been instrumental through representations to the government in having four official positions cut out in my district, and if I am left alone I will have some more cut out, in the direction of economy. These men have not been discharged, but their positions have been done away with, resulting in an aggregate saving of \$4,000 a year, and I have only begun. I have saved the amount of my salary, and if the members of the Progressive party have done the same—perhaps they have, I do not deny it—the aggregate saving would be a quarter of a million dollars. I think that would be an evidence of a more genuine demand for economy than coming before this House with a brick loosely wrapped around with a resolution for economy in one hand, and a demand for the completion of the Hudson Bay railway in the other. Of course, I only take a small view of these things, but that is my idea of economy, putting it into practical effect as we go along.

As regards the other amendments, what is known as the free trade amendment, there is a form of free trade policy to which I would heartily subscribe as I heard it enunciated in the House the other day by my hon. friend from Selkirk (Mr. Bancroft), whom I have the honour to sit beside. In his excellent speech, short, but full of sound common sense and logic, he enunciated the tariff proposition that he was in favour of wiping out the present high tariff tax on woollens and boots and shoes, and like a true diplomat he stopped there. I am prepared to go with him any length along these lines. Like Agrippa, I was inclined to say: Paul! Paul! Almost thou persuadest me to be a Progressive. If he and his party had stopped there I would have been with him, to use a vernacular expression in the West, "till Hell froze over"; but it does occur to me that perchance the fact of my hon. friend and myself being perhaps fair-minded men, open to reason and argument, occupying the same desk for the last twelve months day by day and month by month, perhaps indulging in quite friendly arguments, has at last resulted in a sort of compromise frame of mind between us by which he was led to modify his earlier extreme political tariff views to a point where I could meet him half way. I submit, without any desire for recompense in my behalf, that idea to the government. It might be worked out along similar lines next session. We might find the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Raymond) associated with the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) and see what effect that would produce, or the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) with the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Duff), or even the hon. member for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell) with the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Baxter), or the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. McCrea) with the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth). Such an arrangement might produce a new and desirable frame of political mind in this House. At any rate, the idea is one that is possibly worthy of consideration by the government.

On the economy resolution, I propose to vote with the government, but with a good deal of reluctance, but on the other amendment, I shall certainly vote with the government with great cheerfulness, because I cannot come down here and stultify myself as regards the people who sent me here to look after their interests, and not play a political game. I have been here zealously in season, and, possibly some members of the government will say, out of season, clamouring at the