

The Address

country where he appeared before the public the outstanding principles which have characterized that party from the time of its birth, namely, adequate protection of our industries.

After what I said in introduction I suppose it is not necessary for me to inform my Progressive friends that I am a protectionist. It indeed is the fundamental principle of my political belief. If I were asked to define that fundamental principle, I would say that first and foremost I believe in a measure of adequate protection to the industrial interests of this country; to the farming interests; and, following out that system of adequate protection to those two great industries, I believe the labouring classes of this country have their conditions infinitely bettered and are afforded far greater opportunities of obtaining remunerative pay for their toil than they would be under any other system that could be introduced. If that means to be a Liberal-Conservative, if that even means to be a Tory, I confess that so far from being ashamed of the designation I feel rather proud that it should be applied to myself or to any other member in this section of the House.

I do not propose to take up in detail consideration of all the clauses of this somewhat remarkable speech which has been put into the mouth of His Excellency. The only thing that I can really congratulate those responsible for its introduction upon is that it is couched in remarkably graceful, if at the same time remarkably ambiguous, language. The practiced hand of its originator is apparent in every line, and with finely rounded periods and very graceful sentences indeed he endeavours to lay before the country a pronouncement of policy which is entirely innocuous, which leaves scarcely anything tangible to grasp in the way of criticism, and which after all means precious little. I join here in the view expressed by my leader on Monday night. I feel quite certain that before this session closes my friends of the Progressive party, who are so thoroughly and absolutely wedded to the principle of free trade in foodstuffs—of reciprocity in natural products—will not take home with them any very great consolation when the final meaning of this paragraph relative to the revision of the tariff is disclosed to their view by such legislation as may be brought down during the course of this session. I, of course, am not complaining about that. The more my friends on the other side of the

[Mr. MacKelvie.]

House refrain from tinkering with the tariff the more pleased I shall be, but I am quite well aware that it will bring disappointment of a very bitter kind indeed to many an hon. member, more especially to hon. members from the Prairie provinces, who had anchored their faith upon the fact that at a representative convention assembled in Ottawa only two years ago a great party had given to the public a pronouncement of policy which led to the belief that a very considerable revision in the tariff would be effected when that party attained power—that many articles would be placed on the free list, and that a very determined effort would be made to bring about reciprocity in natural products with the United States. I venture to predict that very, very little indeed along those lines will be accomplished this session.

I promised my Progressive friends to give them some reasons for my political belief that protection afforded the best possible system under which a large section of our farmers could pursue their avocations. I suppose that had I been brought up under other circumstances, say, in an industrial centre, where the benefits of protection as related to industries are very apparent, I might have become a firm believer in protection from that point of view. But for the last thirty years my life has been spent in one of the agricultural sections of British Columbia where we have no manufactures, and the same conclusion has been indelibly impressed upon my mind as would be the case if my associations had been entirely with a manufacturing centre. I have not on this occasion to discuss the subject in any academic manner. I am in a position to place before you a concrete example where demonstration is made up to the hilt of the benefits of protection to a great agricultural section of British Columbia. I represent the county of Yale in that province. That is one of the largest constituencies in Canada; its area is about as extensive as that comprised in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island combined. Certain sections of that constituency are devoted almost exclusively to fruit growing—a large section surrounding Okanagan lake, a body of water 75 miles in extent, the shores of which are dotted with orchards; Grand Forks and Similkameen, provincial ridings are also orchard sections. In British Columbia there is now invested upwards of \$40,000,000 in the orchard business. The Minister of Justice, who spoke