

Did they not tell the people of Canada that the Americans were willing, and did they not asseverate, upon their honour, that as soon as the wicked and distasteful Tories were out of office, our cousins in the United States would meet them more than half way and give them reciprocity. And so the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) further said :

If the Americans are willing to give us full and fair reciprocal advantages, I would recommend trading with them for the benefit of Canada and the Empire*too; and I think Mr. Foster will find out before he is many years older, that very probably—although I admit it is a little roundabout way—it is not a bad way to get it. We have to-day offered better terms to these countries who will trade with us fairly, but that offer has been made to the United States just as it has to any other country, even to Great Britain herself.

So much for that. Why then was this conjoined to the Transvaal contingent policy? It was for the reason that the government did at last what they did not intend to do at first, and they were enforced into doing this thing as they were in the other. When the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the government—after I have no doubt consulting his cabinet and speaking for every member of that cabinet—when he came out with his ultimatum to the people of Canada: that the constitution was against it, that power was lacking, that there was no vote, that they could do nothing, and that consequently nothing would be done; he remained quiet thereafter. And, Sir, he and his government would have remained quiet to this day, and to this day not a Canadian soldier would have found himself on the plains of the Transvaal fighting under British colours, to this day not a single gun or man would have been sent out of this Dominion of Canada, if the country had acquiesced in that ultimatum. If the country had sat down quietly under that ultimatum of the Prime Minister of Canada we would to-day have no Transvaal contingent in South Africa, and we would have no paragraph in the speech from the Throne on this subject. That is the reason, Mr. Speaker, why I think the minister who penned this had in mind, what a beautifully apposite thing it would be to tie the two things together, which the same government, equally in the case of both, never intended, and equally in the case of both had ultimately to perform.

The Governor General's speech further says:

The measures which have been taken from time to time to facilitate the safe transportation of food stuffs to European markets have resulted in a large increase in the exportation of several important articles of produce, and it may become necessary in the interest of this very important branch of industry to require a more careful inspection than has been customary for the purpose of maintaining that high

standard of excellence heretofore secured and which is absolutely indispensable if the people of Canada are to increase their large and profitable trade with other countries in these commodities.

I wonder at the excessive modesty of that paragraph. I am quite certain that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) could not have been consulted when it was penned. Why? Because I have met the Minister of Agriculture within the last few weeks in a fine little town down in Quebec by the name of Sherbrooke. I hold in my hand a pamphlet entitled, 'The Laurier Government and the Conservatives,' with the maple leaf fortunately and appositely under the word 'Conservatives.' The 'Laurier Government and the Conservatives'! There are many astounding assertions made in that pamphlet, and I was very anxious for my part to trace its paternity. I traced it. How? I got an envelope—not addressed to myself but addressed to an elector in that constituency—said envelope purporting to start from the city of Ottawa, said envelope being undeniably a government envelope, said envelope bearing the undeniable frank of 'Sydney A. Fisher,' and said envelope being one of a multitude of a like kind, which if I or any other poor member of the House, had posted, would have cost us 4 cents in the Queen's postage, but which under this very convenient method of operating came free to the enlightened electors. I found the 'Laurier Government and the Conservatives' neatly reposing between the flaps of that envelope, which bore the signature of 'Sydney A. Fisher,' worth 2 cents—in this case 4 cents. I must ask the hon. the Postmaster General whom I believe to be an honest man—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Other hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, whom I believe to be the very watch-dog of the Treasury, whom I believe would shoot at sight any man, even one of his own colleagues, that would attempt to steal a 2-cent postage stamp out of the public till—I call the attention of my honourable and honest friend (Mr. Mulock) to the fact that in the contest that took place in Sherbrooke, Mr. Sydney Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, a member of an honest business government, has actually defrauded this country out of hundreds and thousands of 2-cent stamps for the purpose of sending his election pamphlet down into the county of Sherbrooke on a partisan mission. I challenge the Postmaster General, with that information before him, I challenge him to find out one line of authority by statute, or by Order in Council or by any other way which authorized Mr. Fisher, or the government or the party to send these pamphlets through the country in sealed envelopes at the cost of the tax-payers of Canada.