

*Government's Right to Office*

friend the leader of the opposition, as reported in the Vancouver Province, said:

What will we do when we take office? I will tell you. We will first address ourselves to framing a tariff policy. We will put our tariff wall right up to the level of the American tariff wall.

The great issue between the two parties in the last election was the tariff. I give my right hon. friend credit for the manful way in which he stood by his guns and fought for high tariff.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the hon. member permit me again? I have repeatedly in this House and elsewhere stated that I made no such assertion anywhere in Canada at any time.

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): Then my hon. friend had better wrestle with the Vancouver Province, a paper which is friendly to him.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It does not bother me.

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): Then take the Canadian Press despatch in the Montreal Gazette:

We would give Canadian industry such an advantage as would enable it to function in the markets of the world.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): Here it is given in another form again in the Montreal Gazette.

He sought only to put Canadian farmers and manufacturers alike, on the same basis as their foreign competitor.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): Hon. members may cheer. I am pointing out what the platform of their party was, and apparently they are proud of it. On the other hand wherever our Progressive friends ran in the west they were opposed to such a policy; they did not want a high tariff.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the hon. gentleman permit me. Will he tell the House where he stands on the question of protection for iron and steel and coal?

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): I am opposed to any higher protection on iron and steel.

An hon. MEMBER: What about coal?

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): Coal? We will deal with coal.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

[Mr. E. M. Macdonald.]

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): In regard to coal I think the present tariff rates are enough. There should be no general increase of duties throughout this country.

An hon. MEMBER: Did you not put up the duty on coal?

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish-Guysborough): In the last election I was opposed to the policy of my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) and to his high tariff policy. Here is the point, although my hon. friends opposite would like to get away from the issue. The situation was this: on one side was the Conservative party, with a policy for a higher tariff. On the other side were the Liberal party who were opposed to that policy. We, as a government have stated our policy in the Speech from the Throne wherein we promise to implement our views into legislation. I want to say further that to every item of policy declared in the Speech from the Throne this government, if it is sustained by the vote of the House, will adhere and will endeavour to place its policy on the statute books. My right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) entertained the idea that the government was so childish that it would come and say "Mr. Meighen has got 116 votes and we have only got 101 and we recommend that His Excellency send for him." In other words that we should place in the hands of Mr. Meighen and his friends who are in favour of a high tariff, when they were in a minority in the House, the opportunity of putting their policy into effect, and of putting into effect also the new Hamilton policy of my right hon. friend. I want to say that there is no intelligent member of this House who thinks that should have been done, and that we have followed the constitutional course. We have come to this House, the high court of parliament, and are prepared to abide by the decision of hon. gentlemen who represent the whole people of Canada. The duties of government are such that those of us who have had long experience of public life are not looking to have imposed on us further unnecessary duties or arduous performances. We are willing to do our duty to the country if the task comes to us, and in this matter we will abide by the decision of the House; and the government will stand or fall by that decision. But I must say this to hon. members: Do not let us be misled by the issue as raised by this resolution. There is no hon. gentleman here, who has studied constitutional precedent, no hon. member who wants to do that which is right, and to follow the path which the statesmen and public men of Great Britain have blazed in