

the tariff to which I have referred. In 100 others we are above 40 and approaching 50 per cent.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In how many of these cases do we bring the goods from England at all?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: With the exception, I think, of three or four all the goods come into this country from England.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Practically none.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps my right hon. friend will tell me the ones that do not come from England.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The amount of goods coming from England is negligible compared with the amount coming from the United States, which is the controlling factor.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have before me a list prepared with some degree of care by one of the officials of the government. Included in this list are two items, sewing machines and drain pipes, which have been affected by the two last reductions, and in regard to these there is the following footnote:

Practically no importations of these items from Great Britain at present, or likely in the near future.

All the other items which constitute those affected by the changes of this year and last combined, come into this country from Great Britain. The point I wish to make clear is that the platform of the Liberal party called upon us to aim in the direction of a 50 per cent British preference. We have that 50 per cent applying now in a large number of cases, and we are approaching it in a still larger number of cases; but we have also gone beyond this 50 per cent in some instances. If we had adopted the attitude of mind which some hon. gentlemen take towards platforms we should have stopped the minute we reached the 50 per cent. We take the position that there has been indicated to us the direction in which we should go provided the circumstances of the times so permit. As I have said, we have carried out that policy in a manner which I think will help materially the consumers and producers while it will also help the trade of the country.

Then again in this budget we have emphasized our belief in the importance of reciprocity. That was another plank of the Liberal platform. Let me not forget also to make mention of an important article on which a very marked reduction has been made—50 cents on every 100 pounds of sugar

coming in not only from Britain but from all other countries. There is a reduction which affects every household in this country. There are a few cases where the tariff has been readjusted, but for the most part the entire revision, both last year and this, has been in a downward direction; and in addition to that a very substantial relief has been afforded through the specific items I have mentioned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when one considers that the essential features of this budget are: No increase in taxation; a substantial revision downwards of many items in the customs tariff; a large reduction so far as sugar is concerned; an increase in the British preference on all articles coming by way of Canadian ports; a revival of the offer of reciprocity to our neighbours to the south—when we consider these essential features how can it possibly be stated that this is a protectionist budget? By an identical process of reasoning, assuming that we had taken a reverse course, assuming that we had increased the duties all along the line, reduced the British preference, added 50 cents per 100 pounds to the sugar duty, denied any further faith or belief in the merits of reciprocity, hon. gentlemen opposite might have brought in and supported an amendment declaring that we had introduced a free trade budget and that they would not support it on that account.

Another feature that I think it is right should be taken into account in the consideration of this budget is what has been enacted, or is likely to be enacted, in the way of legislation this present session. Commercial treaties have been made with France and Italy which will bring considerable relief to the consumers of the Dominion, and we believe will materially help in the expansion of our trade. Then there is the enactment, we hope, of a Combines Investigation Act, which contains a clause giving the government power, wherever it appears as a result of investigation under that act that the tariff is being used as a means of enabling groups of interests to gain an undue profit, to reduce duties by order in council. These are all part and parcel of the legislation which we are presenting to the House and which is associated with this budget. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that far from being capable of the interpretation which some hon. gentlemen opposite have endeavoured to place upon the budget, on the face of it this is clearly a budget leading to freer trade and reduced cost of living for the masses of the people of this country.