

the candidates, and the press of both sides. Well, anyone who knows anything about it knows that nothing could possibly be further from the truth than that. Did anyone ever hear the leader of the Progressive party or any of his principal supporters make any such statement as that the tariff would be wiped out? If the Progressive party were in power to-day, with a majority of fifty, there would be changes made in the tariff, and properly so; but anyone who says that they ever advocated that the tariff should be wiped out all at once, and that business and the manufacturers should be subjected to any such treatment are deliberately misrepresenting the attitude of the Progressive party. That party was deliberately misrepresented by both the other parties. But, now that we have a good number of men in the House of Commons, you will probably find that there is not a more able or a more moderate set of men in that House than the group that sits under Mr. Crerar. When I met them after they came here I was pleased indeed to find that two-thirds of them are young men in the prime of life, men who have come down here with a determination and a set purpose, not to work particularly for the advancement or glory of the Progressive party, not to attain power for the mere purpose of attaining power, but to work in the interest of the whole country, not simply in the interest of the farmers. There, I believe, you have the key to the situation. You make the farming and labouring classes of Canada successful, and you will have a very different state of affairs from that which has existed during the past year. What is it that keeps up the manufactures? What is it that they are suffering from now? A shortage of orders—mills standing idle or working on short time; why? Because they cannot get orders for their goods. Why cannot they get orders for their goods? Because the people of Canada, the farmers and the labouring classes, have not the money to pay for the goods and cannot buy. Put the farmers in such a position that they will be successful, and the merchants, the professional men, and the manufacturers all will be more or less successful.

Now I wish to speak for a few moments on the question of reciprocity. I believe, honourable gentlemen, that the Parliament of Canada and the people of Canada are just about to realize the mistake that was made in 1911 in not accepting the offer made by the United States. If that offer

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had been accepted, does anybody here think we would have had the Fordney Bill? We would not. The conditions in both countries would have so benefited by the operation of the reciprocity agreement that was then proposed that we would have had that agreement in force up to now and for many years to come; and, from our endeavors to get something of the same kind again, the people will begin to realize what we missed. Who is going to suffer most? The whole people generally will suffer, but if there is any one class on earth that is to blame, that was short-sighted, that was foolish, that did not look to their own interests, it was the manufacturers of Canada. The reciprocity agreement did not hit the manufacturers; it particularly left them untouched. If my memory serves me aright, honourable gentlemen, there were only three items of manufactured goods that were touched by the agreement: one was agricultural implements, on certain classes of which 2½ per cent was taken off, and on other classes 5 per cent. It was proposed to make salt free. That commodity had borne a duty of \$1.50 a ton. I am not sure, but I think, possibly, 5 per cent was taken off the duty on automobiles. That is the limit of the effect of reciprocity on the manufacturers of Canada. They opposed it tooth and nail, and succeeded. What are the manufacturers wanting now? They are wanting markets. They need markets to-day more than protection, because, while for many years the tariff was the main issue, it is no longer the most important issue to the people of Canada, including the people of the West. The question of freight rates, which I will deal with presently, comes ahead of that. But the manufacturers then had an opportunity of securing the markets of the United States for the agricultural products of the people of the West, which would have enabled them to get money to buy goods. But the manufacturers turned it down, and they will regret that action from this time forward, if they have not done so before now; because, in my judgment, never again during the life-time of anyone here, and longer, will the Canadian people be able to get from the United States such a good agreement as was arranged in 1911. I see that the Government has made an effort to get something of the kind. I will not give them any credit for it just now, but if they succeed they will have the support of the Progressives throughout the country.

The Finance Minister went to Washington a few days ago to see what could be