

ganda, fewer excuses, less boasting, more facts, and particularly more action. The trouble with this government is that it got elected and then went to sleep; or, if I might use Mitch's phrase, it pulls up the blind, takes a peep out, then goes back and hibernates for another three weeks. I like to quote Mitch because he is good when he is expressing his opinion of his friends.

Let me repeat that I quite agree that trade agreements are good, as long as they are on a fair basis; but so far as I am concerned I want to see them on such a basis. I want to see Canada get at least as fair a deal as the other side, and I doubt very much if we got it in this case. After all, one of the great objects of a tariff is to further trade with other nations; that is, to bring about trade agreements with other countries. You can saw off this tariff or the other and you get some concession in return. One of the great disadvantages in a country which attempts to operate on the basis of free trade is that it has nothing with which to bargain. We have a tariff with which we can bargain, and I think we should bargain a little harder.

Speaking of the tariff let me say that I believe in the tariff system, not only because the tariff is an instrument with which we can bargain but because I think it protects our industry against the unfair competition of countries such as Japan, where wages and standards of living are so low. It protects our labour from that sort of competition and helps our people to retain their jobs. It protects agriculture against unfair competition from certain sections of the United States, for example, where the climate is quite different from ours, and it builds up markets for the farmer in our own country. Indeed, we know that our agricultural products have been sold in our own markets to the extent of something like ninety per cent over the year.

I do not admit the truth of the idea, which is so prevalent, that because we have a tariff it necessarily follows that prices of goods are increased. In some instances that is undoubtedly so; we can all think of certain items on which prices have been raised by this means, but that is not always the case. I do not travel north and south as much as some of my hon. friends opposite; but occasionally I do go to the United States for a holiday, and time after time I have made it my business to compare prices of goods of like quality. Very often I have found prices much lower in Canada than in the United States, despite the fact that we may have had a tariff of thirty or thirty-five per cent in

this country. I could mention various lines of goods. I referred to boots and shoes a short time ago. I could mention automobile tires, made by the same company, with a thirty per cent duty against them coming into Canada from the United States. I found that I could buy these tires in Fort William for less than I had to pay for them in Chicago. I could refer to good woollen clothing, which is undoubtedly cheaper in Canada than in the United States, and so on down the line. The idea, as put forth by some, that because you have a duty of thirty per cent on a certain article therefore you pay thirty per cent more for it in your own country, is, in my opinion, quite wrong, and it is not borne out by the facts; it is not true.

It is not for the purpose of raising prices that we have a tariff system; it is in order that we may hold our own Canadian markets. That is the reason for a tariff system. But I believe that if the system we have in this country permits people to be exploited, and if industry does exploit the people of Canada, then those tariffs should be removed, whoever may be the producer. To-day we must have a tariff; practically every country in the world has one. It is true that Great Britain was a free trade country from 1846 until some time after the war, but it is now highly protectionist. The other day out of curiosity I looked up the customs revenues of Great Britain and Canada and found that last year Great Britain collected in this manner some £210,000,000, or over a thousand million dollars, which works out at about \$25 per head. In Canada we collected about \$91,000,000, which works out at about \$8.50 per head. In other words, to-day Great Britain is collecting just about three times as much per head in customs duties as we are. As I have said, to-day practically all the countries of the world are protectionist, and that is one reason why I believe in the tariff system. I mention that because it is a system under which we can trade on a fair basis with the United States, a system under which Canada can get a fair deal, if in dealing with the United States the Canadian ministers and their assistants hold out for a good, straight, business transaction.

I am now going to leave the trade treaty. I have made a good many general remarks about it, but undoubtedly we shall deal with it more fully when it is up for discussion here. Even then, if it is discussed, as the right hon. gentleman suggested the other day, as soon as this debate is over, I do not think we shall be able to judge as to its merits or demerits, though I anticipate that we shall