

the advantage which I will call the protection of transportation. It costs not only time but money to bring things from abroad, and when you consider freight, insurance and other expenditures connected with the handling of goods, that particular element affords a large measure of protection for the manufacturer of the country. There is another advantage, which I will describe as the protection of patriotism, a desire which ought to exist, and I hope if it does not exist now, it will soon among Canadian people, and it is to encourage home industry in every legitimate manner. I do not forget that at several tariff hearings we were informed by gentlemen who came before us urging the retention of a higher tariff, that one of the great difficulties under which they laboured was that the people of Canada would not buy Canadian goods, that the people of Canada had prejudices against Canadian goods and actually preferred to buy foreign articles. I hope, Sir, it is not true. I am unwilling to believe that it is true, but I give it to the House as I received it on the testimony of the protected manufacturers of this country who came before our tariff commission. Well, Sir, if that has been the result of the National Policy, I can hardly imagine a more severe arraignment of that policy. If after eighteen years of encouraging manufactures by all the methods that were known to the ingenious Finance Ministers of the Conservative Government; if after eighteen years of boasting that this was indeed the golden era of Canadian patriotism; if we have to recognize it as a fact that the people of Canada to-day have no faith in Canadian goods and have a prejudice against them, and actually prefer the goods of foreign nations, then I say, it is a startling result to the National Policy. It is just possible that if the people could not be induced to buy Canadian goods under a high tariff policy, perhaps we may induce them to buy Canadian goods under a policy which looks to moving in the direction of a lower tariff. I feel that we have every reason to hope that that would be the result of any changes that we are able to make. In other matters we have found in this House, that coercion failed where conciliation succeeded, and if you have not been able to make the Canadian people buy Canadian goods by Acts of Parliament designed to compel them, let us try some other way. Let us admit a little of the free air of competition into the manufacturing industries of our country. Let us make the manufacturers feel that they should sell their products to the people of Canada, not because there is a law on the Statute-book to oblige the people to buy them, but because the articles themselves are good, and because they will stand on their merits irrespective of any National Policy.

I feel therefore, Sir, that we can say to the manufacturers of the country, that they

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have much to hope for from a reform of the tariff which will move in the direction of lower taxation. If upon these advantages to which I have referred, if you take the protection, as you may call it, a protection of convenience; if you take the protection of transportation which is considerable, and if you take that protection which I think the people ought to give—the protection of the patriotism which would make them desire to buy Canadian goods; and if on top of all that you put a moderate revenue tariff, in which nearly always there is a considerable measure of incidental protection, I say, that by all these means you have given the manufacturer of Canada a fair chance to live, and there is no reason why he should not live and prosper and flourish under such conditions.

Now, Sir, the question arises as to how far we shall be able to apply at once, or at an early day, these principles of tariff reform which we have in the past declared we wished to carry out. We have heard it stated at times, that we should immediately undertake to bring in a radical free trade tariff. It is but fair to say that we generally hear that observation, not from free traders, not from friends of the Liberal party, but from hon. gentlemen who sit on the other side of the House, who are not supposed to be free traders, and who are not supposed to be friends of the Liberal party. However, these gentlemen kindly undertake to tell us, that in view of this, that and the other thing, it is our duty to bring down at once a tariff based upon free trade.

No man who ever spoke in the name of the Liberal party of Canada, ever announced that we were going at one step to adopt the principles of free trade to that extent. We never found in the old motherland, when they had to deal with the same question, that they at once came down to the basis of the low taxation which they reached in later years. But, Sir, we have an opportunity of calling some witnesses on this point. I well remember that immediately after the last elections in 1896, the London "Times" in a very able article on this question, pointed out that it was unreasonable to suppose, and that nobody should suppose, that the result of the Canadian elections must of necessity lead to the immediate adoption of a free trade policy. After some observations on the subject, the "Times" spoke as follows:—

The present generation has grown up to manhood under a protective system. The conditions of any other system are unknown, and Mr. Laurier's Administration will do much, if, by cautious and tentative beginnings, it can bring about an intelligent reconsideration of much that has been taken for granted. If Mr. Laurier's accession to power means anything, it means that in so far as experiment is possible, the way will be prepared for a change in the fiscal system of Canada, when such a change shall have become demonstrably profitable to the community.