

asserted that the rate amounted to a protection of 123 per cent on the coal oil imported into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He concluded with a touching appeal to the House for sweeping away this enormous anomaly. He said: "I plead on behalf of the mass of the people—not on behalf of the rich people in cities and towns, who have their electric light and gas—but for the great mass of the people who are obliged to buy this oil. This is class legislation of the worst kind. It bears most seriously upon the Maritime Provinces, and it bears with enormous weight upon the poorer classes in the Maritime Provinces."

And yet this is a duty for revenue purposes, and there is not a vestige of protection in it! Shall I go any further in attempting to prove the statement with which I commenced, that in the whole outcome of that legislation the Minister's words and predictions have been falsified in every respect by the decisions of the law officers of the Crown, by the arbitrament of the facts, and by the course of business history during the last six months; and to-day, Sir, we have a tariff law in effect which gives privileges to nine-tenths of the foreign countries in the world, and withholds them from nine-tenths of our sister British colonies, all in the name of kinship and imperial unity. We have, Sir, a tariff under whose operation we find that Great Britain's trade decreases, that that of Belgium increases, and that that of Germany increases, and despite which the trade from the United States increases as well. But, Sir, they say, look at the increased exports; that is a proof that this policy has been successful. Is it? Let us see. The increased exports are in round numbers \$16,900,000 this year. I am going to say nothing about the higher prices, and nothing about famines and causes for these higher prices; every one understands them. But I am going to subject to scrutiny that argument which they have been vaunting throughout the length and breadth of this country as a proof of the wisdom of their policy, that though the imports have fallen off, the exports have increased by \$16,900,000. Well, Sir, I do not suppose that the very fact of hon. gentlemen having put this clause in their tariff late in the year 1897, made apples four times as great a crop for exportation as they were in the year before, and gave \$1,000,000 of an increase in exports. I do not suppose that clause or that tariff legislation was the cause that the export of butter was doubled, giving a little over \$1,000,000 to the good of the export column; that wool increased in export by twice as much, and added \$600,000 extra to the volume of exports; that hides added \$500,000; that grain added \$6,000,000; that flour added \$1,000,000; that the mines added \$3,200,000; and that the forests, including manufactures of lumber, added some \$4,000,000; making in all \$17,500,000 more than the total increases in exports. Not one of these articles was

affected in the remotest degree by the tariff legislation of last session; and in reference to every one of them, if any effect can be claimed for any policy, it can be claimed for the policy which was initiated and established by the Government which preceded that of hon. gentlemen opposite, and which they had the good sense to follow out and not to destroy. Wherever these gentlemen have fulfilled their pledges, they have hurt the industries of this country. They have not hurt as many industries as they otherwise would have done, I may call to the attention of the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), because they have not kept those pledges which he was naive enough to say had caused a feeling of distrust and want of confidence in the Liberal policy all through this country. Nor, Sir, has their tariff in any respect lessened the burdens of the country. A rather peculiar thing which is worth mentioning, is this. I find that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was in London, and whilst there he addressed a meeting; I am not sure but it was a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce; and in the course of that address, he made several statements which call for notice. In the first place, he effectually condoned all his sins of fifteen years in affirming that this country was burdened beyond redemption by the debt which had been piled up, by declaring to an audience of business men in the heart of London:

While it might be mentioned that the Government had to some extent mortgaged its future by reason of the large expenditures which had been incurred by developing the illimitable natural resources of the country, they did not, however, face the future with fear and trembling, but with confident hope and assurance. They felt that what they had incurred they would be able to pay.

And what they had incurred was for the purpose of developing the illimitable natural resources of this country. But, Sir, he went further:

They felt that what they had incurred they would be able to pay; and in the present year, by making both ends meet, they had given the best answer to those who had asserted that they had acted too hastily.

Did the Government make both ends meet? Had the Finance Minister so certified to the Minister of Trade and Commerce? Was the Minister of Marine and Fisheries under the impression that he was electioneering somewhere in Prince Edward Island under the shadow of that green bay tree, under which the wicked too often shelter themselves, and was just as oblivious of what ought to be truthfully stated there as he is sometimes in the electioneering campaigns in this country? He stated to the business men, the financiers of London, that this Government were making both ends meet this year, and so were erecting for them-