

a farming and fishing constituency, as the representative of a constituency which has also other elements of industry, and as having at heart the interests of Canada at large, I wish to make my position clear before the House and the country. I am a Liberal of the school of Cobden and Gladstone; I am a free-trader, in the essence of the word, just as much to-day as I was a year ago, two years ago, twenty years ago. The time has come when the social and financial conditions in Canada are such that the consumer and the workingman should no longer be obliged to pay all the expenses of government. That is a British Liberal principle. I am for free trade, as far as its adoption is practicable, to-day, to-morrow, next year or the year after. I am for a diminution of the tariff in every direction, to every practical extent, so that in the course of a few years Canada may depend upon income taxation and the taxation of land values and of objects of luxury for the necessary revenue to administer the country's affairs.

We talk of tariff for revenue and tariff for protection. A tariff for revenue is necessary, at times. It should be imposed upon objects of luxury; it should fall upon commodities not produced in the country, so that no privileged interest may take advantage of it. It should not rest merely upon the poor man or the workingman in the city. In its policy of protection the Conservative party has always been proud in declaring that they wanted to raise up towns and cities in Canada. But if you want to develop towns and cities, you must first develop the farming industry. Improve the state of the farmer, make him happy and contented, and his sons will remain on the land. But if you do not enable the farmer to enjoy life; if you do not better his condition, the young men will leave the farm to go to the cities; and the result will be not the raising up and development of towns and cities, but the increasing of non-employment. A tariff for revenue allows goods to come into the country; a tariff for protection stops goods from coming into the country. And under a tariff for protection the manufacturer, knowing that the twenty-five or thirty per cent duty prevents the foreign manufacturer from sending his goods into Canada, adds a corresponding amount to the price of his goods and makes the enormous profit referred to a while ago—and the people of the country, the workingmen, have to bear the burden.

Canada is in a better position to adopt free trade than any country in Europe,

[Mr. Turgeon.]

where nations adjacent to each other have been enemies and have had to protect themselves against each other. Trade is an inducement to friendship; the more we trade with each other the greater friends we become. The more the nations of the world trade with each other the more friendly and fraternal they become. Free trade would be an inducement to perpetual peace. There is a dictum among old French economists to the effect that the millennium will come when the nations of the world have free trade. Believing in this dictum, I had hoped that the end of the war would be the occasion of the introduction of free trade among the allied nations, binding them together in commerce and in fraternal sentiment, and offering an example to the Hun and to nations which until today have been fighting against each other. If my

hopes have not yet been accomplished, 9 p.m. I still trust that when peace is signed, as it will be, no doubt, in a few days, the League of Nations, whose intention is to promote harmony among nations, will further that object by bringing about freedom of trade. I hope that before many years have passed, the German nation, regenerated by the influence of a new education, will be admitted to the League of Nations. There is something providential in the work of the men across the ocean who are endeavouring to frame a peace treaty which will ensure the future peace of the world. Free trade among nations will certainly help the League of Nations to bring about that peace, to the great happiness of the world at large.

Free trade has won the war for Great Britain. At the time of the war she had an immense commercial fleet, which had increased year after year as her trade extended across the seas to the shores of every continent. If she had not had that trade and that commercial fleet, Germany might to-day be master of the world and hold in slavery those who contended against her. If free trade has won the war; if free trade made England prosperous, it will make Canada equally prosperous. I do not say that we should have free trade this year in every detail; the country has not been educated to that. We are often reminded by political adversaries, members of the Conservative party, that when the Liberal party came into power they did not introduce free trade. Well, they did not introduce free trade, but they made great progress toward free trade in the first year of their administration.

It has by reductions in the tariff reduced the imposts on food products and