

strange reason he seemed to have forgotten the past; its memories rolled away like the great burden of which John Bunyan wrote rolled from the back of the pilgrim who was endeavouring to achieve his goal. That great burden rolled away and the hon. gentleman became a vigorous free-trader to the extent of one hundred per cent of the invoice cost being paid by the consumer to get his goods into his house. What a magnificent type of free trade we have! I am sure that those who recall the splendid consistency manifested in those addresses will regard events with some degree of satisfaction, and perhaps in moments of leisure, when they are quiet and calm, will reflect that after all there is something in the words of a great British statesman that "an organized Liberal government is an organized hypocrisy."

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ILSLEY: It was said about a Conservative government.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, certainly, and a great deal worse than that was said about a Conservative government, and no one said it better than my friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ilesley). No one said it more vigorously than he; and no one in power practises more than he does the things he denounced when in opposition. "Consistency, thou art a jewel" has no application to the Liberal party. In election time, said the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross), we fight shoulder to shoulder, but when we find ourselves in office there is left still a saving remnant. I heard the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. McLean) say that "to save this country it is necessary to develop within our party that opposition which is lacking in those who sit opposite." It will be remembered that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) was not in the chamber this morning when the hon. member for Melfort explained that the real attitude he took was one of benign observation and of an earnest desire to serve the body politic, and that to do so it was essential that he should oppose the furniture item because it afforded him an opportunity to express his belief in the sound principles of Liberalism as he had learned them, but which unfortunately, he found, were not being expressed by the government that he generally supported. It was a rather difficult admission to make, but he made it with an ease of conscience and smoothness of speech which commended itself to every one who heard him.

So I congratulate the government at the end of the session upon having maintained

in office the principles that they opposed when they sat on this side of the house. It is a striking exhibition of how regard for the interests of the country can overcome pre-election statements, and I congratulate the country that we have on the treasury benches men of such flexibility and adaptability that they are able to accept the great principles of protection which have saved this country in the past and will continue to preserve it in the future. It is desirable, no doubt, that this measure of reasonable protection should be afforded the industrial life of this country, notwithstanding that, in days long since past, my hon. friend the Minister of Mines and Resources said he could not see anything in it at all. It is not necessary to see it now; he feels it; and the Minister of Finance does better than that—he smells it.

Under the circumstances I can do nothing more than warmly compliment the administration for having this session accepted the doctrines they so strongly denounced when they were out of office, and I earnestly hope that they may long continue to practise while in power what they have done so splendidly in the last few months, and a departure from which might lose them the support of some few who to-day supported them generously in maintaining that high protection which they so stoutly denounced in days long since fled. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*; the dead is past and gone, and we will speak nothing but good of it and all the noble achievements that it represents. It is a matter of satisfaction to feel at the close of this eventful session that the government has so excellently manifested a belief in that measure of inconsistency which constitutes the variety in public life that is so essential to maintaining its interest—to say nothing of the amusement it affords. If the British manufacturer finds it difficult to discover here a market for his goods, it is well to remember that he had reason to believe that when the change came, only fifty per cent of the general tariff would be charged him. But what of the ships of which we used to hear in our friends' speeches, the ships which according to their imagination were to ply from Churchill to England and back again with goods upon which only fifty per cent of the general tariff would be paid, with a gradual reduction to a basis of free entry? Somehow or other that has not materialized. But we must give hon. gentlemen time. Time is the great healer, and it also affords a great opportunity.

I could not but think that even the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) had his moments of calmness, for in a speech