

principle of protection to the industries of this country should be continued and maintained. The declaration made by the hon. gentlemen now in power is, if I understand them, this: that they will remove every vestige of protection—at least so they have said—but probably in the future, as in the past, they will act upon the principle of professing one thing in opposition and carrying out another in power, and I am quite satisfied that that will, to a very great extent, be the case. Their numerous promises and declarations of principle, not only in connection with the tariff, but in connection with scores of other things, will be violated. They will find it utterly impossible, in the administration of the affairs of the country, to put their theories into practice, and so it will be with the tariff. If trade does not stagnate and the manufacturers do not keep their manufacturing within the strictest limit of the requirements of the country, I shall be very much mistaken, and I base that opinion upon my knowledge of what transpired in a very much less aggravated degree in the past. With the government, however, must rest the responsibility. I accept the opinion expressed of me by the hon. gentleman from Halifax—I am now, and always have been since my boyhood, a protectionist. The older I grow the more I am convinced that it is the only policy which can be pursued in any new country that has not attained to a wealthy position, if they expect to prosper and become a wealthy people among the nations of the world. Free trade is an admirable theory—my hon. friend from Marquette has it to perfection—but free trade in practice is quite another thing, more particularly when you are shut out from all the other markets of the world. I hope whatever the government may do that they will consider well the responsibility that rests upon them in dealing with the very important question, and if I have sufficient strength, and I am here, they shall have my earnest support, provided their policy is in accordance with what I think it should be. If not, I shall endeavour to put it as right as I possibly can. I have no sympathy with this constant cry of unfriendliness to our neighbours across the line. I look upon such declarations made by hon. gentlemen on that side of the House and by the party with which they are connected—more particularly the leading one—not only as being

unpatriotic, but as tending to the material and everlasting injury of Canada. Are we to stoop to any foreign power, to go upon our knees and beg like a beggar in the street for concessions, when we know that they have been refused over and over again? Do we not know that the leading statesmen of the United States have told us, time and again, that they will never re-enact the treaty of 1854? Yet the Premier tells us, in an interview with some United States interviewer in Chicago—the representative of a third class newspaper at that—that there is no reason why this treaty should not be re-enacted. I go further—I question whether the interests of the agricultural community of this country would be benefited by the restoration of the tariff as it existed at that day. Circumstances change. Canada is not in the same position that she occupied in 1854, or during the negotiations of Lord Elgin, when the first reciprocity treaty was enacted. We stand in a firmer position to-day as a people, in wealth and industry and in everything that tends to make a people self-reliant, than we did in those days. The United States, it is true, repealed that treaty: what did it do? It created a stagnation in this country for a very short time, but the genius and industry of the people of Canada led them to adopt other means by which to secure a return for their labour that did not exist during the time that that treaty was in force, and the result has been that we have turned our attention to other industries. The market of the United States is no longer of the same importance to the Canadian agriculturist that it was 20 or 30 years ago. We are in a position to stand alone in that respect. Any reciprocity treaty that may be made will have the support of every member of this House, I am sure, provided it is on a square and equitable basis, but I hope that the Canadian people have not so far forgotten their allegiance to the Empire, of which they form an integral part, as to ever consent to the adoption of a treaty which will discriminate against the mother country. Mr. Blaine has told us distinctly, and the leading United States newspapers have declared consistently, that no reciprocity treaty can ever be effected with the United States that does not shut out the manufactures of all other countries; or, as one paper said the other day, "you must have the United States tariff in Canada if