

an industry of this character, and while he had supported that policy, in another arena of politics, he was not in favour of giving to these corporations legislative facilities for effecting combinations and restraining competition. In so far as this Bill had a principle, it might be stated as facilitating a combination of these interests. He was opposed to it. He looked with the utmost jealousy upon giving these corporations large facilities for effecting combinations. He thought that at the present time Canada was suffering from such combinations, and he believed that, as time went on, whether the country enjoyed a protective tariff or not, it would be necessary for gentlemen assembled in Parliament, representing the interests of the whole people, to throw the utmost possible safeguards around these corporations, in order to protect the public interests. At the same time, if the Nova Scotia sugar refinery, or any other sugar refinery in this province, desired its corporate powers amended, and could show good cause why larger legislative facilities should be given to it to allow it to carry on its industry profitably and so as not to cut down necessary competition, he would support such a measure. But this company, under this Bill, could be organized without a cent of capital. The dangers which had arisen from such legislation could be seen in the neighbouring republic, and similar dangers had arisen in this country. While, on personal grounds, he should desire to facilitate the operations of these corporators, some of whom were his personal friends, he could not forget, while he held a seat in this House, that he did not represent their interests, but came here to represent what he believed to be the interests of the public.

Sir, these are the words uttered by a man whose every sympathy and every prejudice would have led him to say anything but what he did say. As he said himself, those who were promoting that legislation were his personal and political friends; but he had a great struggle in his mind between the interests of his own friends who were promoting this Bill and the fear entertained by Conservatives throughout the province of Nova Scotia, feeling as he did that they were getting restless and discontented on the subject of the combines in this country. He was troubled and wrestled with himself, and to use the words of the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot) the other night, he strained every nerve to see if he could not vote for the Bill, but it was no use. I believe, Sir, as it is laid down in the platform of the Liberal party:

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as it is now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service;

That the existing tariff, founded upon an unsound principle, and used, as it has been by the Government, as a corrupting agency wherewith to keep themselves in office, has developed monopolies, trusts and combinations;

It has decreased the value of farm and other landed property;

It has oppressed the masses to the enrichment of a few;

It has checked immigration;

It has caused great loss of population;

It has impeded commerce;

It has discriminated against Great Britain;

Mr. McISAAC.

In these, and in many other ways, it has occasioned great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as the present tariff system remains in force.

That the highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade, and hasten the return of prosperity to our people.

That to that end the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government.

That it should be so adjusted as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon, the necessities of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

We believe that the results of the protective system have grievously disappointed thousands of persons who honestly supported it, and that the country, in the light of experience, is now prepared to declare for a sound fiscal policy.

That the people deplore the gross corruption in the management and expenditure of public moneys which for years past has existed under the rule of the Conservative party, and the revelations of which by the different parliamentary committees of inquiry have brought disgrace upon the fair name of Canada.

Sir, it was upon these issues that I appealed to the electors of my county some few weeks ago; upon these issues and upon these issues alone I asked for their verdict. I assailed the record of scandals of this Government and condemned their fiscal policy, and I asked the electors, if they believed with me, to support me. Our opponents made every effort to dodge and evade the real issues by substituting other and unfair issues; but the electors of that county, as Mr. Cahan said of the people all over this country, became aroused and alarmed at the condition of our public affairs, and the result was that that county, which endorsed the policy of this Government four years ago by 227 majority, reversed that decision on this occasion and condemned their policy by a majority of 118. It was the last occasion on which we have had from the maritime provinces an expression of opinion from the people at the polls, with the result that they condemned in unmeasured terms this Government's record of corruption and scandals and repudiated their fiscal policy, and endorsed unreservedly the great, popular, able and distinguished leader of the Liberal party, and adopted the platform of the Liberal party in its entirety.

Mr. COATSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in the torrent of eloquence which the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) has poured upon us, he gave us one of the strongest arguments which he has been able to use on behalf of his friends and himself, when, referring to a certain gentleman, he said: "this is not a Grit hungry for office." It appeared to me, Sir, that he accepted that attitude as being characteristic of his party—