

the government, and observing that the party now in power fully recognize the imperative necessity of maintaining the policy that so strongly attracts the manufacturers, they are unhappy, and seek to regain their lost prestige by shouting that their tariff clothes have been stolen and are worn by the other fellows. It won't do. The other fellows could never have captured the clothes if they had not been unwisely laid off.

What does that mean? That means that because the Conservative party, suiting the tariff to the times and circumstances of our country had enacted in the interests of the consuming population two or three tariff revisions, being convinced that some of those manufacturing establishments had enjoyed protection for a sufficient length of time to withstand competition from their rivals in foreign countries, the manufacturers, through their official organ, said that the Conservative party had laid off their protection clothes and that if they had not done so the Liberals would not have been placed in a position to put them on. The article goes on:

As long as those in power maintain the policy of protection, the manufacturers will ask for no change. The existing status is quite satisfactory.

That did not appear to meet the wishes of the western liberal representatives who declared in this House, in 1897, that they were not satisfied with the tariff brought down, but only regarded it as an instalment of what was to come. The manufacturers, however, seem to be perfectly satisfied.

The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who, I am sorry, is away from the country at present, knowing the dissatisfaction that exists in the west because of this duplicity that has been practised on the people, attempted during the recess to stem the tide against the government and against himself in particular, by visiting that country accompanied by the Minister of Customs, the Boanerges of the cabinet, and other Liberal members of parliament on what the *Winnipeg Free Press* was pleased to term an educational tour. But their schools of instruction were very poorly attended, and try as he might, beat the air as he would, stir up the faithful of the party to the utmost of his powers, he could create no enthusiasm. The people were too intelligent to be again deceived, and in many places his reception was so cool that he could scarcely summon a corporal's guard to listen to his eloquence, and those who did hear him were not slow to express their disappointment. The man who prior to the elections of '96, harangued the people of that western country on the crying evils of a protective policy and pledged the faith of the Liberal party to redress those grievances which he declared our farmers were labouring under; the man who denounced protective duties as so much robbery practised on the people, who

were bled white for the purpose of amassing huge fortunes for the bloated monopolists of the east; the man who held up the Canadian Pacific Railway to the odium of the public as a soulless corporation that dominated the government of the day, that took one-half the farmers' crop to move the other half out of the country; the man who condemned the voting of large subventions of land and money by parliament to enrich railway corporations, and denounced in extravagant language anything savouring of corruption in elections, of scandals in connection with public enterprises and promised good, honest and clean government on behalf of his party; the man who denounced the subsidizing of steamships between Australia and Canada, that landed on our shores Australian mutton and subjected the mutton raised by our farmers to unfair competition—that man must indeed have found a difficult task confronting him, when addressing those same people, to explain why each and every one of those promises have been unfulfilled, why he now declares the tariff is a dead issue, why many of those manufacturers are now in the enjoyment of more protection than when the Liberals came into power, why he himself is one of the most servile instruments in the hands of that same corporation the Canadian Pacific Railway, ready and willing at all times to do its bidding, why millions of dollars are still voted for railway subsidies each session, why the steamships are subsidized exactly as they were prior to the Liberal party coming into power and cargoes of Australian mutton still landed on our shores.

Taking all these things into consideration, how embarrassing it must have been to him to explain away his maladministration of the Yukon with its opportunities for plundering the public treasury, opportunities taken full advantage of by his officials, party colleagues and those in authority to the consequent disgrace to our country and refusing an investigation by an impartial judicial tribunal. And no easy task was it for him to persuade the intelligent electors of the west that everything was square, honest, and statesmanlike in connection with the Mann and Mackenzie railway deal, the Drummond County Railway deal, the Crow's Nest Pass contract and other public actions of the government of a questionable character. Nor, I venture to say, did he touch upon that delicate subject of purity in elections which he so much lauded prior to his acceptance of office. Is it not a fact that his own entry into the cabinet was signalized by an immoral bargain, politically speaking, in connection with the settlement of the school question? And his subsequent actions amply prove that he betrayed his fellow-countrymen of the west for the sake of the emoluments of the office. And in the face of the recent exposures in the