

We have to-day in the United States the very tariff for which the Conservative party waited for eighteen years; the very tariff for which the Liberal party waited for fifteen years. It is offered to us to-day; are we friendly or unfriendly? I allege that the United States tariff of to-day is most friendly towards Canada. When the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was speaking in New York two years ago, I think, he held out the olive branch, and said that when the United States reduced their tariff Canada would probably reduce her duties or give some advantage to American goods coming into Canadian markets. The United States tariff is to-day a most friendly one. I keenly regret that the minister made during the course of his Budget speech a statement which, read between the lines, might be regarded as unfriendly towards the United States. Never in forty years of Canadian history has any minister of finance made such a remark as this, indeed, the very opposite has prevailed from the time of Confederation up to the present day. This was the remark of the hon. minister:

Speaking generally, it is not advisable that a nation's tariff should be so arranged as to fit into the particular features of that or any other nation.

Why did the minister make that remark, having regard to the friendly tariff which has just been put in force by the United States? For forty years we have had an unfriendly tariff; we have sought their friendship so far as tariff has been concerned; we have wished that they would put our natural products on their free list. This they have done as far as a large number of our natural products are concerned. But the minister almost says we do not reciprocate your kind consideration; we do not appreciate what you have done with regard to the putting of our natural products on the free list. I regret this exceedingly, because I think that it is an epoch in the history of Canada when the United States gives us free markets for our natural products, which are of immense value to our Canadian producers. I do not believe that hon. gentlemen fully realize the great possibilities of our Canadian potato production, especially when we have a market of one hundred million people to the south of us. Gentlemen should not forget that the population of Canada is proportionately two rural to one urban, while in the United States the population is two urban to one rural.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. LOGGIE: Well, that is the way Mr. Sifton put it to the House when he was speaking on the subject.

Mr. BURRELL: Our population is in the proportion of 45 urban to 55 rural.

Mr. LOGGIE: In any case, what I want the minister to bear in mind is this: that the United States tariff to-day is a friendly one and that we in Canada should act in a businesslike way and take advantage of the benefits which are offered to us by the friendly tariff of the United States. I have special reference to potatoes. I quote from the free list of the United States tariff, item 581:

Potatoes, dried, desiccated, or otherwise prepared, not specially provided for in this section, provided that any of the former specified articles shall be subject to a duty of ten per centum ad valorem when imported directly or indirectly from a country, dependency or other subdivision of government which imposes a duty on such articles imported from the United States.

From the day, therefore, that Canada puts potatoes on the free list our Canadian product will enter the United States free of duty, and the result will be a decided benefit to the Canadian producer. Under present conditions we dare not increase our planting because if the Ontario crops are exceptionally good, what will the Maritime provinces do with their surplus produce? We have the West Indian market, but it is a limited market. I have endeavoured to argue this matter according to the facts, and if my remarks are partisan it simply shows that I am on the right track. And if I am right, surely the minister is big enough to take this matter up and deal with it on its merits.

Mr. BLAIN: If we had free trade between Canada and the United States on potatoes, what effect would it have on the price of potatoes in Canada when the United States have a large surplus crop, which very often happens?

Mr. LOGGIE: I thought I had made myself perfectly clear on that when I said that in nineteen years out of twenty, potatoes are much dearer in the United States than in Canada; and if they are dearer in the United States why in the name of common sense should we want them here? If we can get our own potatoes at 42½ cents a bushel, why should we want their potatoes at 75 cents a bushel or perhaps a smaller amount than that? Hon. gentlemen should bear in mind that thirty barrels out of every carload of three hundred barrels of potatoes go to pay the duty.