

The Telegraph-Journal then goes on and argues that Mr. Dawson completely ignores the principle laid down by the Prime Minister during the debate on this tariff item at the special session of parliament when he said that he would expect the cotton interests to keep their promises made to him that the unemployed in idle cotton mills would again be provided with work. The way the cotton magnates are keeping that pledge to the Prime Minister is that they are closing down the Cornwall mill. They closed it down and reduced the number of employees in the York cotton mill at St. John, and that mill is working only four days a week now.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Does the hon. member mean to suggest that the closing of the Cornwall mill was due to the increase in the tariff? Does he not know the reason is entirely different?

Mr. VENIOT: I am not saying anything of the kind; I will come to that in a moment. I did not say that the increase in the tariff caused the closing of the Cornwall mill. The Prime Minister told us last September that the increase would keep that mill going, and it has not done so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They transferred the business to Marysville.

Mr. VENIOT: According to the Canadian Cottons Limited they cannot give increased employment and at the same time maintain the present price level; they must decrease the number of their mills and throw thousands out of employment. Or, if they carry out the principle laid down by the Prime Minister, they must increase the price to the consumer.

That is the situation Mr. Dawson has laid before the people in St. John. I do not know who is right in the interpretation of the effect of this increased tariff. Is it Mr. Dawson, who states that it will not accomplish what the Prime Minister says?—Mr. Dawson who is considered to be an expert in these matters. Or is it the Prime Minister who blindly went into the matter of increasing the tariff without obtaining proper information from proper sources, but, when increasing the tariff, considered only the interests of the manufacturers, never taking time or trouble to consult the consumers? In reply to the Minister of Pensions and National Health, Mr. Dawson said that:

If the tariff did not help, the elimination would go on and the least profitable mills be closed down.

And we find that my friend the hon. member for York-Sunbury stated that it was not the intention of the government in increasing

the tariff to bring about the centralization of manufacturing. To that the Premier of New Brunswick replied: "Then, if that was not the intention, let them change the tariff."

So now you have the history of the closing-down of the cotton industry in New Brunswick. But Mr. Dawson was asked—Why not close down the industry at Marysville instead of the industry at St. John? He stated that they had too great an investment in the large number of brick dwelling houses which had been erected some twenty or twenty-five years ago by the late Alexander Gibson to permit of their being done away with. That was the only reason given for not closing the cotton mill at Marysville, within the county represented by the hon. member for York-Sunbury. I have not heard the hon. member for York-Sunbury, the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) or the junior member for St. John (Mr. Bell) raise one single protest since their return to Ottawa. There is nothing to show what action they took in defence of the destruction of an industry in their own province. May I be permitted as the lone star on the Liberal side from the province of New Brunswick to raise my voice, since the Conservative members will not do it, on behalf of the people not only of St. John, the commercial capital of the province, but of the whole province of New Brunswick. I appeal to the government to listen to Premier Baxter in his protest against the closing of this cotton mill, and accede to his request that the federal government invoke the power given to them under the amended act of last September and either cancel or lower the tariff on cotton so that the people of New Brunswick will not have to suffer this injustice any longer. As the saying is, that was the last straw that broke the camel's back, because it was after this and after the Conservative province of New Brunswick headed by the premier of that province had pleaded for better terms from this government in railway matters, that the Premier of New Brunswick gave vent to that expression which was broadcast throughout the Dominion of Canada, that the maritime provinces had a right to secede from confederation.

An hon. MEMBER: Surely not.

Mr. VENIOT: If those words had fallen from the lips of a Liberal he would have been condemned for all time to come and paraded as the most disloyal man in Canada.

My time is limited but I have another subject upon which I desire to touch. During the last campaign the Liberal party were