

ter were at stake ; yet what happened ? In the county of Pictou there has been more trade in the last four years than ever existed there in any four years previous. I am not going to say that that is a legitimate argument now because it was used then ; but I say that it is hardly fair for the Conservatives, after they lived and moved and had their being on the dark days of the Mackenzie government, now to squirm and squeal because the same argument is applied to themselves. For example, take my own province which I know most about, and I make the statement here and now that never in the history of Nova Scotia was agriculture carried on so largely, so intelligently and so successfully as it has been during the last three years. I say the trade in lumber has never been more successful in the province of Nova Scotia. I say the fisheries have been fair, though they are outside of government action altogether. I say that the coal business has been in a splendid condition. Let us see what they said about coal. No. 5 begins in this way :

Consumption of coal an evidence of Canadian progress. Coal furnishes the great motive power for the trade, commerce and manufactures of the country. The increased consumption of this commodity furnishes convincing testimony of Canada's great progress under Liberal-Conservative administration since 1878.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And the coal duty.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not at all. The duty is not exactly what it was ; it is a little better. But all I have to say is that if it is the same, the trade in coal in the province of Nova Scotia has been greater by 20 per cent than it ever was previously. If in 1896 the fact that the consumption of coal had increased was a convincing argument that the Conservative policy was the right one, the argument that it is now at least 20 per cent more used is a great deal better argument. Then, we were told that if the Liberals got into power the manufacturers of Nova Scotia would all end their days. The iron business in the county of Pictou was, I am bound to say, more heavily struck at than any other industry. The legislation with regard to iron was a very important matter, and I remember that we were told there : ' If you allow the Liberals to come in, these works will close.' In 1896 the change came, and what happened ? The tariff was brought down. Of course, the windows were not closed just then, but what happened ? At once, when the tariff was brought down, they said to the men : ' We cannot go on,' and a man who had got \$1.10 a day had a reduction of 10 cents at once. They said : ' You must suffer, because the Liberals have come in.' Now, what has happened since ? Within the last eighteen months not only has the 10 cents which was taken away been restored, but 10 cents more has been added to the pay of

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

the men ; that is to say, a man who during the splendid days of the Conservative policy received \$1.10 per day, now gets \$1.20. But that is not all ; there is more money being invested now in the iron business in Nova Scotia, fifteen or twenty times more, than was ever in the business before. In Cape Breton they are investing from fifteen to twenty million dollars.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that on account of free trade or protection ?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). All I say is that the duties on iron were largely struck, and still the industry is going on.

Mr. WALLACE. And the bounty substituted.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The bounty was in existence before, and given by the late government.

Mr. WALLACE. It is increased.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is less, because there is a sliding scale by which it will ultimately disappear altogether, whereas there was no sliding scale before.

Mr. WALLACE. Under the Conservative rule it was only for a term of years.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Under the Liberal rule it is for the same term by a sliding scale until at last there will be nothing left.

Mr. WALLACE. For the first five years there was no sliding scale.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Decidedly, and they changed it afterwards, but what I am answering is the charge made before the last election, and I am showing that the Conservative party are not to be trusted, because they were either too ignorant to understand us or too dishonest when they said that if the Liberals came into power these things should happen. Let hon. gentlemen opposite take either horn of the dilemma they choose, the people will hold them responsible.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I will have to speak for a moment about the leader of the opposition in his absence, but I know very well that he will understand that I only do so because the necessities of the case make it absolutely necessary that I should. I have a charge to make against him, which I make here on my responsibility as a member of parliament, and that is that he is guilty of two acts which, in a court of law, would be considered murder. That is a pretty hard statement to make.

Mr. TAYLOR. That will not hurt him much.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, because he is not amenable to the courts. In the first place, I charge him with having murdered Imperial federation. That scheme lies dead—killed in the House of its own