

Mr. SUTHERLAND: On coal.

Mr. KYTE: If the gentleman is getting cold I will warm him up before long. I was proceeding to say when the interruption of my hon. friend from South Oxford came across the floor, that I am in favour of a moderate tariff; that I believe in free trade as a beautiful and picturesque theory but that in point of realization I have it bracketed with the millennium. I stated a moment ago that our friends opposite always endeavour to make it appear that any dulness in trade, or what they call hard times, is due entirely to the tariff. I have here a statement which was issued by the Royal Bank of Canada on January 8, 1925, and from it I read the following:

While the year 1924 was in general one of poor business for Canada it cannot be regarded as an entirely unsatisfactory period in our business history since the foundation for a real and substantial improvement in Canadian trade was laid during the twelve months in question. The development referred to took place in the wheat market. This is the commodity which has been responsible for business depression in Canada for years past.

Our friends opposite say that the business depression is due to the Robb tariff but the Royal Bank says it is due to the price of wheat. The statement also declares:

Most of our other leading natural industries have not been in at all a bad position. While the demand for lumber fell off during 1924, it could not be said that the lumber trade was in a state of acute depression.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, which authority the people of Canada will be more likely to accept; the authority of great financial institutions like the Royal Bank of Canada which says our depression was due entirely to the price of wheat, or the authority of hon. friends opposite who are out of office and trying to get in.

Mr. HARRIS: Give the people a chance.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the hon. gentleman permit me?

Mr. KYTE: I will with pleasure.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No part of the report the hon. gentleman read said anything of the kind.

Mr. KYTE: Said anything of what?

Mr. MEIGHEN: That the depression was entirely due to the price of wheat. Let the hon. gentleman read the report through.

Mr. KYTE: I will read it again:

This is the commodity which has been responsible for business depression in Canada for years past.

What does my right hon. friend object to?

Mr. MEIGHEN: What I say is that the Royal Bank report made no such statement as that the depression in Canada was wholly due to the price of wheat; it said quite the contrary.

Mr. JACOBS: The hon. gentleman read the report.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have read the report and I know what it says.

Mr. KYTE: My right hon. friend is at his old tricks, and I am not unaccustomed to them either. Wherever we take up financial papers, wherever we read interviews by men who are authorities in finance we get from them the same impression: that

9 p.m. times are getting better, that money is easier, that prosperity

is again coming back to Canada—that prosperity which fled from Canada during the time the right hon. gentleman and his friends were in office. The right hon. gentleman's proclamation in favour of more protection is a very courageous action on his part in view of the fact that high protection never yet won a victory in the Dominion of Canada. In 1878 Sir John A. Macdonald was very careful to say that his policy was not to increase but merely to readjust the tariff. He made that statement in the House of Commons and he repeated it during the election of 1878. In 1882, they had so little confidence in the value of the National Policy as a winner in an election that they resorted to a gerrymander of seats throughout Canada, and this contributed more than anything else to the success of their party in that election. In 1887, they still had the National Policy doing business; but it was not developing as a vote getter, so they passed the Revising Barristers' Act in 1885 which placed the revision of the electoral lists throughout Canada in the hands of their own political friends, and this gave them a tremendous advantage over the opposition party throughout the whole of this Dominion. In the election of 1891 there was no issue of protection. The issue was whether we should have reciprocity or commercial union, backed up by waving the flag with the motto "A British subject I was born and a British subject I will die." There was not much protection there, and notwithstanding that the majorities which the Conservatives won in the general elections of 1878 and 1886 dwindled with every succeeding election, so that in 1891 they were reduced to a paltry majority of twenty and in 1896 they went out of office. Therefore, I say that my right hon. friend is very courageous if he thinks that a policy of protection is going to