

of assisting Great Britain in this her time of trouble. But, there has always been, and always will be, in the minds of the people, the conviction that these hon. gentlemen sent the contingents only because the force of public opinion compelled them to do so. The right hon. gentleman, I am reminded, said so more than once. At any rate, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), and the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Monet) made the statement down in the province of Quebec, just about the beginning of this debate, that the Prime Minister only sent these contingents because he was compelled to do so by Sir Charles Tupper, backed up by the strength of public opinion. Knowing that they missed an opportunity in connection with the contingent, and desiring to catch the electorate upon the cry of loyalty, we have them extending the preference to Great Britain, while at the same time they sent down to the province of Quebec, Messrs. Bourassa and Monet to say that the government only sent these contingents because they were compelled to.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) voted with you against the preference.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is an exceedingly pertinent remark. I stand by the position I took on the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell). I say that in this country, struggling along as a new country, while we have the very strongest devotion for the motherland, that is a matter of sentiment and an entirely different thing from business. When we come to business, it is the duty of the government to get something in return for what they give to the American manufacturers and the British manufacturers as well. Our last man, our last dollar in defence of the empire, but when it comes to business let us deal with it in a straightforward business way. And I am not alone in holding those sentiments. The hon. Minister of Customs smiles exceedingly, but let me draw his attention to the speech which the right hon. Prime Minister made in Brampton, when you, Mr. Speaker, were present. On that occasion, the right hon. gentleman gave his pledge that all the promises of the Liberal party would be fulfilled. I am not going to ask you now, Sir, to rule if they were, because that would place you in an exceedingly awkward position, but we have this statement of the Prime Minister on that occasion, which, in view of the statement I have made, I wish to present to the House, this is what the hon. gentleman said:

I think England can look after her own interests. And if I know John Bull at all he expects his son to follow his example and do the same, viz., to look after No. 1. I think he would have a contempt for a son who would not turn an honest penny.

All I ask this government to do is to look

after No. 1—to look after Canadian interests and Canadian artisans, and see that they get a fair show in supplying the markets of our own people.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is exactly what I am doing.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Let me call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to this, that these words were not spoken when the right hon. gentleman was dealing with the preferential tariff in favour of Great Britain, but when he was defending discrimination against Great Britain and unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. And if his words were forceful then, in defence of discrimination against the motherland, how much more forceful are they now in defence of a fair and reasonable reciprocal agreement between the motherland and Canada.

At North Bay, the right hon. gentleman going westward on that splendid trip of his, made another speech—and I am quoting from *Globe* reports:

It was not a question of sentiment. He had no objection to trading with the colonies if sentiment were cash, but no banker would take sentiment and credit your account with it.

At Brantford he said:

The government went to the United States for an example and England for a market. He would reverse that when he got in.

But here is the essence of the whole thing, and I now ask the hon. Minister of Customs to smile again, as I again quote from his right hon. leader:

Business was business and sentiment was sentiment, but he did not believe that sentiment was business any more than business was sentiment.

These were the words of the Prime Minister in the city of Brantford, discussing not the question of preferential tariff, but the question whether we had a right to discriminate against Great Britain by unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. That was previous to the elections of 1896, just when the hon. gentleman was starting on his trip to the North-west Territories and British Columbia. I did not follow him any further west; I fancy he got still more businesslike as he went west and approached the Pacific coast. Now, what do we find the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) saying last night. We have had members of the government saying it was childish this idea of bargaining with Great Britain—

Mr. WOOD. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Who says 'Hear, hear?'

Mr. WOOD. I do.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) says 'hear, hear.' I