

Now, Sir, what is the character of the tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite? By means of it they take twice as much out of the pockets of the people as goes into the Treasury.

If that be true, this Government is criminal in allowing such a tariff to remain on our Statute-books during the last ten months, and not only that but in continuing it to the extent of 90 per cent, at least, for a considerable time to come.

This tariff has been attacked within a few days by the Montreal "Witness," but of course the opinions of that journal have not very great weight because you do not know where to find it. Sometimes it supports the Government and sometimes it criticises. But as an evidence that the Reform party agreed to give us, let me quote a few extracts from the speeches made by the hon. leader of the Government.

Mr. KAULBACH. Will it be in the shape of the Wilson Bill?

Mr. WILSON. No, there is no such Bill in this country as the Wilson Bill. This is a speech delivered by the leader of the present Government (Mr. Laurier) at Newmarket, in September, 1893:

I will not be satisfied until the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. This is the aim towards which we are progressing, the aim which we have in view, and we will not rest until we have achieved that object. When that will be, I do not profess to know, but, at all events, I say that the Reformers of Canada have reforms to carry out, but that our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection.

Mr. GIBSON. Yes, but the platform fell down.

Mr. WILSON. I should think so. We have the strongest evidence that the platform fell down, and their principles with it, if they ever had any. I have another short extract, in reference to a speech made by the leader of the present Government in 1895 at Grand River, Que. He told the people that:

If he were Prime Minister, he would make it his duty to remove the duty on pork and flour.

And in carrying that out, he went so far as to take 15 cents a barrel off flour, and nothing whatever off pork. But the most extraordinary article that I have seen is the one that appeared in the Toronto "Globe" on the 26th April. A man reading it would naturally look two or three times to make sure he was not reading the "Mail and Empire." It is long and I will only read a portion of it.

Mr. GIBSON. Read it all.

Mr. WILSON. It is good literature, but the hour is late and the House is very impatient.

Mr. GIBSON. We are all satisfied.

Mr. WILSON.

Mr. WILSON. All right; we will try it. I have no doubt it will be very interesting to the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson). This is from an editorial of the Toronto "Globe" of the 26th inst. It is a very long article but it is well worth perusing, and I would advise the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) to read it all.

The FINANCE MINISTER. After the session.

Mr. WILSON. It would be too late then for the hon. gentleman to profit by it.

If we gave our market to the manufacturers of the United States and allowed American goods to come in as a flood, many of our factories must be swept away in the deluge, and widespread commercial disaster must result.

An hon. MEMBER. What is that from.

Mr. WILSON. It is from the "Globe" of the 26th instant. It is worth any gentleman's while to read the "Globe" now because there are some good articles in it. I almost think they must have changed the editor and taken a good Tory.

The real danger lies in the fact that Canada and the United States are contiguous countries, that we have to make long hauls and pay heavy freight charges in order to supply the home market, while, if we threw down the tariff barriers, the American manufacturer, enjoying the great national advantages of the short haul and the consequent low freight rate, could swamp us from one end of the Dominion to the other. For example, if there were no taxes on American goods, the manufacturer of New York State could control the market of Ontario as easily as he controls that of his own state, while the factor of distance and the burden of freight charges would make it impossible for us to meet American competition in the other provinces, where the American manufacturer could as easily, and as cheaply, throw his goods across the border into Canada. Therefore, in view of the physical configuration of this country, to reduce our tariff to a free trade basis in face of the high tariff of the United States and the low freight charges across the border into Canada, would be to doom even the most deserving of Canadian industries to decay and to send our young men in ever-increasing droves to the United States. We assert as strongly as ever the advantages of free trade with the neighbouring country. But we must consider self-preservation, and we must have national self-respect, and there does not appear to be any escape from the conclusion that, under all the circumstances, it is impossible for the moment to give any large measure of free trade to an adjoining country from whose markets we are effectively and determinedly excluded.

I had intended to read an extract from a speech by the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Edwards), but he is not in his place and I do not think I will bother with it at this time. There is one thing that strikes my riding, and which, I think, will strike a great many ridings in the province of Ontario, and that is free corn. What I am surprised at is that the Minister of Finance has not been as generous to the people of the province of Ontario as to the people of his own province. He said he was willing to reduce