

ed the contract, you must see us through or we will go out. Are these the free conditions under which the Government should administer the franchises and money of this country? And, Sir, the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, although an undertaking which had been discussed, and the principle of which was conceded, these gentlemen opposite hurried to put it in commencement and operation by giving nearly two millions more dollars than the road could have been obtained for by the preceding Government, or obtained by them for that matter. They did this on the childish plea that they had gotten from the Canadian Pacific Railway promises of general freight reductions, but before one-third of the line is graded, for business reasons and business reasons alone, the Canadian Pacific Railway has made an almost equal cut of their rates over all the Northwest and through that great section of country. Not a single Government paper ventured to say that anything else than business considerations led to this reduction.

And, Sir, this other deal, the Yukon deal, which is now facing the country, was sprung upon the country, sprung upon Liberals as well as the Tories, sprung upon the country one week previous to the assembling of the people's representatives, sprung upon the country after secret conference, when no one, not even the most intelligent of our people, knew that such a thing was in the wind, except, of course, those who were interested, or who the Government wished to become interested. It came before the country through the "Globe," which the Government took into its confidence, and through which it sent forth its policy, and now through the member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), with a slight addition; and through the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), with another addition, and a most unfortunate one, which was that after all it was but a temporary expedient. The Government came before this House with these conditions signed, sealed and delivered; the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) declaring ten days ago that one condition of the contract was, that in twenty-six days, before this Parliament could possibly debate, thoroughly discuss and pass this measure, one part of that contract was to be finished by Messrs. Mann & Mackenzie. Sir, these are things which may well cause Liberals who are not sitting in Parliament, Liberals who are not asking and looking for favours, Liberals who have no designs upon front benches or fat positions; these are things which may well make these Liberals back in the country (and good men all this country through), ask themselves: Whether or not we have come to the pass in our parliamentary history where the Ministry take the franchises of the country and dispose of them as they will, in

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secret, and then rush them through Parliament by their majority without affording any opportunity for free and manly discussion. It is no wonder that the "Farmer's Sun" feels that in this respect the promises and pledges and past history of the Liberal party are not being implemented by them when they are in office.

And now, Sir, I come to another subject. I am not going to put before my right hon. friend his own pledges made in the city of Toronto, where he absolutely and unconditionally promised that if he got into power he would reduce the expenditure by two or three millions at least. He has made no effort to do this, but on the contrary these expenditures have been kept up to a larger amount than ever before. I am not going to take the thousand and one pledges on all the subjects which he has given; given lightly without a thought perhaps of their tendency and consequences, and when they are brought to his face, treating them just as lightly as if hereafter it was to be a legend, a tradition only, that in Canada amongst public men public faith and public pledges were an honourable guarantee that ought to be honourably borne and honourably kept. I want to proceed to my right hon. friend's position in England on this preferential trade business, and I must ask him to give me his attention whilst I try to discuss the question. The subject has been discussed, but I propose to put the question to him again, and I propose to put it again and again, and I have no doubt that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House will put it again and again until we have some satisfactory explanation from the Government benches; or until we prove that the position taken by the right hon. gentleman was highly detrimental to Canada, was unauthorized by the people of Canada, and was such as he, as the representative of this country, should not have taken. This investigation requires close attention, and the first point that I wish to make is as to what was the position of the right hon. gentleman in Canada on preferential trade. His position was set forth in two speeches—one made in London and the other made in Montreal. What he said in London was this:

We would have for our goods a preference which would not be given to the goods of another nation.

I call attention to these words, for this purpose. My hon. friend took another position after that. He took a position of opposition to any trade arrangement with Great Britain which would make it necessary for Great Britain to become protectionist to the extent of putting a discriminating duty upon foreign imports; but when he was in London, giving his policy to the electors, he declared that the project of preferential trade did include the necessity of Great Britain