

into a discussion of all the questions that have entered into this debate ; but I did feel as a manufacturer that it is unnecessary for the members of the Opposition and the Opposition press throughout the country to make such strenuous efforts to squeeze, as it were, a policy from the Government before they are practically able to give it. It is an unreasonable expectation ; and I do not believe they have any right, knowing that the people of this country have decided in favour of the Liberal party, to make this demand. I know that the people of Canada to-day are not looking for such a statement, and are not expecting it before the coming session of Parliament. As a manufacturer myself, I have perfect confidence in the Government of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, and I believe they will so re-arrange the tariff that the business interests of this country will be thoroughly protected in its true sense.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. FROST. That is all right. There is no doubt about that. I could point you to scores of industries in this country to-day which are not protected by the so-called National Policy, which has failed in every particular from the time it was inaugurated down to the present time.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Name them.

Mr. FROST. There is not an industry in this country to-day—except a few that are monopolistic in their character and that have been especially fostered and looked after by the late Government—which is not languishing and in a state that requires immediate attention ; and I am positive, from the declaration made by the Government, that attention will be given to those industries. I have every confidence as a manufacturer that when the tariff is brought down, it will be found to work advantageously, not only for the manufacturers, but for the consumers and all other classes of the community, and will do away with the depression which we have heard so much about in the last two or three years, and bring back prosperity to the country. For my part I repudiate the assertion that the manufacturers are over-eager for the tariff policy of the Government to be declared. They are willing to give fair-play to the Government and to await the proper time for them to bring down their tariff, knowing that it is going to be right. It was only two years ago that we were told that tariff reform was to be brought about by the hon. ex-Finance Minister, and what was the result ? After he had made many changes in the tariff, which he claimed would effect a reduction of a million and a half of dollars in the revenue, we found that nearly every item in the tariff was put back in its original place, in consequence of the importunity of the followers of the Government ; and the result was that we got no tariff reform at all. There was not a single mouldering

branch lopped off—not one ; and it now remains for the present Government to take that matter up and do justice, not only to the manufacturers, but to all the people of this country.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I crave your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and that of the House for a few moments while I offer a few remarks upon the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne which we are now asked to consider. My hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), in giving the figures, this afternoon, of the results of the different elections in the province of Quebec, which have taken place since 1874, was rather consoling. He said that the political pendulum did move in the province of Quebec in such a way that at one time one party got into power and at another time another party got into power. That is consoling to us, for if at the last general election the Liberal party carried the province of Quebec with such a majority, it stands to reason, according to the historical sketch made this afternoon, that at the next general elections the province of Quebec will return an overwhelming majority of Conservative members. But my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General was a little out when he talked about the majority which my hon. friend the Controller of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) got in 1877. Why, Sir, after the elections of 1877, on the first motion which was made in the House upon the issue which had been before the people, namely, the constitutional question—the question whether or not the late Lieutenant-Governor Letellier had the right to dismiss his Ministers—my hon. friend, who was then First Minister of the province of Quebec, was left in a minority of two. After that, I must say he had a solid, undivided and indivisible majority—the majority given him by the vote of the Speaker of the House.

The CONTROLLER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). During the whole session ?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, during the whole session. While speaking of my hon. and learned friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick), I cannot help but call the attention of the House to the joy which must have filled the heart of my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. Choquette) in seeing the hon. member for the county of Quebec (Mr. Fitzpatrick) obtain the position to which he has been called and which he occupies with so much distinction in this House. I believe that my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. Choquette) was a little disappointed, however, when he saw that my hon. friend the Solicitor General did not get a Cabinet position, and I have heard it said—I do not know whether the rumour is true or not—that my hon. friend from Montmagny had actually got a round robin signed by the members of the district of Quebec asking that my hon.