

problems in an open and aboveboard way, we shall go far to heal the breach between the different elements in this country and arrive at a solution of our difficulties that will bring us in the future that prosperity which I am sure every hon. member of this House desires, irrespective of party.

After all, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the budget brought down by the Acting Finance Minister and at various other budgets brought down previously, you find that during Conservative rule, under the Right Hon. Robert Laird Borden, under the present right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Meighen), as well as in the budgets brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), under the present Prime Minister practically no change was made in fiscal policy, except in 1919. It is estimated that the reductions in the tariff under the present budget will be in the vicinity of \$1,000,000, the major part of the total reduction, or about \$23,000,000, coming from the reduction in sales tax. What was the reduction announced by Sir Thomas White when he brought his budget down in 1919? It was about \$17,000,000, and he stressed the point that in the interests of agriculture as a basic industry the cost of the implements of production should be brought down through tariff reduction, but that it was not fair to do that unless there was reduction of the tariff all round; that when you reduced the duty on the implements of production you should reduce also the duties on the raw materials entering therein. It was in 1919, then, that he said the time was not ripe. This is 1924, five years later; if the time is not ripe now it never can be, unless it is rotten; therefore this is the opportune time to bring down the reductions in tariff which will help to ameliorate the condition of the agriculturist of the West, the fisherman on the sea, the miner in the pit and the lumberman in the woods, besides doing a little for industry as well. That is the happy position of this happy governmental family and its children who play behind them on this side of the House, and if hon. gentlemen on the other side will only emulate us in our desire to carry out these fiscal reforms they may be over on this side sooner than they think.

Next in importance to tariff as affecting industrial activities in this country is the question of transportation, whether by rail, on the ocean or on our lakes and rivers. It is necessary that transport rates shall be such as to permit the free access into the markets of our goods at fair and equitable rates. The industries of this country are interprovincial in their character. Canada's geographical posi-

[Mr. Finn.]

tion is such that unless we are able to establish reasonable rates over our great transcontinental system we cannot hope to build strongly and well this Dominion and to keep it intact, the East with the West and the centre with us both. Let me speak more particularly for my own province of Nova Scotia—and I do so not in any selfish or sectional way, but from the point of view and in the light of facts that unless some things are done for the Maritime provinces we will begin to die more quickly than we think, but not as quickly, I hope, as some hon. gentlemen on the other side would seem to imagine.

I would like to be reminiscent for a few moments and to carry hon. gentlemen back to the early days when we in the little province of Nova Scotia were enjoying a great measure of prosperity. It was before my day and the day of many hon. members of this House, but it was a day when the hum of industry and the din of traffic were heard from one end of our peninsula to the other. But, Sir, those days seem to have passed, and in the light of what has happened we sometimes wonder whether those who opposed the entry of our province into confederation were right, in the final analysis, or were wrong. I hold in my hand an extract from the speech delivered by Sir Charles Tupper away back in the year 1860. There is no one but must admit that the Right Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, besides possessing the retrospective view, could also look into the vista of the future, and he had a vocabulary which permitted him to express in golden words, sometimes perhaps not as measured as other men's might be, that which was going to happen in the future; and in the light of experience we wonder perhaps how he had the vision. He says:

Independently of the great Red river and Saskatchewan country lying between Canada and the Rocky mountains, between those mountains and the Pacific—an immense country now fast rising into importance—we find these five British North American provinces, with a population larger than the "old colonies" had at the time that "the ignorance and injustice of the British government lost them,—the brightest gem of the Crown of England."

We hear, Mr. Speaker, of Imperialists; we hear of patriotism; we hear of standing by that great national unification even at the expense of our future, industrial and commercial, yet Sir Charles Tupper never lost the opportunity to hit where the hitting was good; nor did Sir John A. Macdonald refuse to do so when he brought down his National Policy, and when in reply to a question how it would affect the Motherland he said, "So much the worse for the Motherland." They stood for Canada, but when we on this side of the House attempt to make an utterance