

1878 appealed to the people. They gave the people an opportunity to consider the question, unlike my right hon. friend, who makes a bargain with the government of the United States without giving the people of this country an opportunity to say whether they want it or not. The Mackenzie government were beaten at the polls in 1878, the people of Canada expressing themselves in favour of a National Policy for this country, with protection for the agriculturist, for the mechanic, and for every man. The Liberal-Conservative party came into power. They had in opposition given pledges to the people of Canada, and thank God they were strong enough when they came into power to fulfil those pledges by putting on the statute-book the grand old National Policy that still lives to-day. From that moment the Liberal party in this House and out of this House made declarations; by resolutions, by speeches and by votes, against the National Policy, although it had been endorsed by a large majority of the people of Canada. I need not review the history of that policy. At once the people of Canada took on new life; at once they found employment; at once the manufacturing establishments began to grow up in every centre of population; at once the goods that were coming into Canada from the United States, that were manufactured by the United States people, were stopped, and the Canadian people commenced to manufacture those articles for themselves and to pay the wages to their own working people. My right hon. friend in those years had become leader of the opposition, and he went from platform to platform throughout this country denouncing the National Policy and calling upon the people of Canada to adopt the same old policy which the hon. member for Red Deer has been talking about to-night. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) took the platform, and, in the province of Ontario in particular, and the Toronto 'Globe,' with all its power, laid down a policy which I regard as one of the most dangerous ever advocated in Canada; that was the policy that the National Policy was against the interests of the farmers and was for the benefit of the manufacturers alone. I say that was a bad policy for any public man in Canada to advocate. It left its mark on the agriculturists of Canada. The mark is still there; but there is a new generation to-day, and when my right hon. friend appeals to the farming community, he will find a class of people who have lived under this National Policy, who have enjoyed under it a better price for their products, and he will find that no class in Canada will condemn this brand-new

Mr BLAIN.

policy as the farmers will when they have an opportunity to vote upon it. That is the history very briefly of the trade policy as we have it in Canada, and have had it for the last few years. I may assume that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House will be more interested in that than in being told about borax in the United States, and a large soap concern in England with branches all over the world as spoke by the hon. member for Red Deer.

I shall stop here to say a word or two to the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark), who has left the chamber. Let me read his words. He said:

The leader of the opposition spoke for upwards of one hour on the resolution and did not touch the reciprocity question at all.

That requires no answer, because we know how able is the leader of the opposition to discuss this question, and how well his remarks were directed a few days ago to the resolution before the Chair.

What is the question which the right hon. gentleman has thrown into the arena of politics now. Our National Policy gave to the Canadian people of every class, the manufacturer and the farmer, protection to assist them in building up our manufacturing and agricultural industries. The right hon. gentleman has now made a division between the farmer and other classes in the proposition before the House. Let us see what that division is. With one stroke of the pen he and his Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), have taken away altogether almost every vestige of the protection given by the National Policy to our agriculturists. That is the charge which the farmers of this country have against the right hon. gentleman and his government. In schedule A of this agreement, which gives the free goods, we find the following: Live animals, cattle, horses and mules, swine, sheep, lambs, and all other live animals. There is to be no duty upon these. Poultry, dead and alive, wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, dried peas and beans, edible corn, sweet corn or maize, (except into Canada for distillation), hay, straw, extract of hemlock bark, fresh vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, turnips, onions, cabbage and all other vegetables in their natural state. Fresh fruit, apples, pears, peaches, grapes, cherries and all other edible fruits in their natural state. Dried fruits, apples, peaches, pears, apricots, dried or evaporated.

Dairy products: butter, cheese, fresh milk and cream, eggs, honey, flaxseed or linseed, cotton seed and other seeds. I shall not go through the whole list, but this list gives the products on which the Liberal-Conservative party had placed a duty in the interests of the Canadian farmers. But the present government