

economic storm we have ever experienced, the hon. members who sit to your left charge the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and this government with having broken some little pre-election promises.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROWE: Perhaps the government has not followed as rigid a course as would have been pursued during finer weather, but I think it is only fair that I should recall the record of hon. gentlemen opposite. We remember that in 1919 the Liberal party drew up their famous platform; the Progressive party began to appear somewhat dangerous, so we had a platform of double construction, with new party principles in Liberalism, re-planked by agricultural timber, in the hope of catching Progressive votes all over the country.

Then in 1921 what happened? The then Prime Minister, the present leader of the Liberal party (Mr. Mackenzie King), questioned as to why he did not carry out the promises he had made, said they were merely a chart and compass by which he might set the ship of state aright. However, Mr. Speaker, there were two charts, one for low tariffs and free trade and the other for lower tariffs and freer trade, but the wisdom and influence of the Right Hon. W. S. Fielding prevailed and both charts were discarded, the compass buried at sea, and the ship of state began its reckless, uncertain journey. In 1925 and in 1926 we had, by the way, a new system, a new array of fantastic promises. I am not going into details, but I well recall the speeches of the leader of the Liberal party at Richmond Hill and other places throughout the dominion. He promised: We will reform the Senate and we will give the Progressive and Farmer parties what they cannot secure for themselves. The Liberal party was returned to power, and it answered the first promise by placing in the Senate some of the most remarkable reformers Canada has ever known. How did it answer the second promise? By kidnapping the leader of the Progressive party and his shipmate, the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown), leaving the Progressive party shipwrecked, in distress and still crying for aid.

In 1930 we had from my hon. friends opposite a new array of promises more fantastic than Liberalism had ever before known. They said: Now we will shelve the old low tariff policy, that old, dusty free trade program which we have had for years, and bring forward a "countervailing" system. Nobody knew how high; nobody knew how low it would be, and only heaven itself knew [Mr. Rowe.]

how often it might be changed to suit the whims and fancies of various countries in control of our fiscal policy.

As I listened the other day to the ex-Prime Minister, with all respect to him I must say that my interest was more or less mingled with amusement as he defended his fourteen points of his new policy, and concluded by saying: "Mr. Speaker, we and the Liberal party guarantee tariff stability for Canada." I have long since made clear my position in the house, and I do not want to take an attitude of, I told you so, to refer to any speech I have made, but hon. members who have been in the house for a number of years will know that I pleaded with the former government to try to develop agriculture in a less lop-sided fashion. We are charged with having increased tariffs. The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) said yesterday that if the present government had lowered tariffs it would have been much better for the Dominion of Canada. In another breath he said that we must inflate our credit to buy where we can buy the cheapest; while the countries with which we trade would not know the value of our money. Such is another inconsistency.

If the years from 1920 to 1929 were those which we are to assume were the prosperous ones, all one need do is to recall the development of this country during that period. What was the trend of development? In 1920 we sold \$27,000,000 worth more finished products from farm and factory than we purchased, while in 1929, the concluding year of this era of prosperity of which my hon. friends opposite boast, we imported \$243,000,000 worth more of the same products than we sold. That is some indication of the trend of development of the dominion. That is partly the reason we had to spend \$26,000,000 on immigration and had a government which, in the year it went out of office, had produced a situation whereby more people were leaving Canada than were entering it. In 1922, 72,000 Britishers came to Canada, while in 1929, 10,000 more people left this country for the United Kingdom than came over from the old land. That was the concluding year of their prosperous era, the year before the present opposition had even admitted that the depression had begun. So I say: What would have happened had we inaugurated a policy of lower tariffs? Is there an hon. member who sits either to your immediate left, Mr. Speaker, or among the wilder group in the far corner, who will for a moment maintain that had we lowered tariffs in 1930, we would be better off now, especially when it is considered that in the way of debts, which were largely