

province in the promotion of railways, if newspaper reports can be credited, the Cabinet is almost torn asunder by internal dissensions on account of the aid that Sir Richard McBride wishes to give to this railway corporation. These are the burdens, these the legacies, left by the late Administration for the ready shoulders of the Minister of Finance! These are burdens which have not been placed upon his shoulders by the late Administration, but largely by his own political friends in British Columbia.

The people of western Canada will be very sorry indeed, at least the people of my province—I do not want to speak for those farther east or farther west—to see this Government give up the project of constructing the Hudson Bay railway. But I will say this, and I believe that in saying it I am speaking on behalf of a large majority of the people I represent, that dear as the project is to the hearts of our western people, if it comes to a question of accepting this tariff legislation, with its anti-British provision, or a question of the construction and completion of the Hudson Bay railway, the majority of the people of the West will say: Give us no Hudson Bay railway; we want the road and we want it badly, but we do not want an expenditure made upon it if it is to be made a pretext by this Government for this legislation that we know will not appeal to a very large portion of the people of western Canada.

This tax on British goods seemed to touch the Minister of Finance very keenly, and that it is a very tender subject with gentlemen on the other side of the House is evident by the fact that most of them in their speeches have carefully refrained from making any mention of it. The Minister of Finance in his Budget speech merely made the necessary announcement that he proposed to increase the duty on British goods by five per cent, and it was not until the amendment of my right hon. leader touched him on the raw that he gave the attention to this question which we believe he ought to give to it, and to such purpose that he should amend his resolution by eliminating it altogether.

Hon. gentlemen opposite have always prided themselves—I presume this line of argument will be considered tantamount to breaking party truces, but they have been broken already and I am not to blame—hon. gentlemen opposite have prided themselves on their loyalty to imperial connec-

tion. I am sorry the member for North Ontario (Mr. Sam Sharpe) is not in his seat to-night, because not so very long ago he gave an interview on foreign soil, in which he expressed the pious belief that it was a good thing for Britain that at the present time Canada was in the hands of the Imperial party. I wonder what my hon. friend from North Ontario thinks of this proposal of the Minister of Finance to tax British goods coming into Canada? The time is past when the people of Canada can be deceived by brazen or loud-voiced professions of loyalty to the British Crown; actions speak louder than words, and this Government's actions are now speaking so loudly that I am certain many of us cannot hear their words when they say they are the greatest patriots in the history of Canada. We have this statement by a member of this House given to a foreign interviewer—and he has not denied it—and I presume that this sentiment that they are the party of imperialism, finds its place in the breast of most hon. gentlemen opposite. When these gentlemen opposite came into office, the maintenance of the British connection was one of the planks in the platform that brought them in; but what do we find within the last few months? We find that as a result of war conditions for the last eight months of 1914, as compared with the same eight months of 1913, our imports from Great Britain diminished some \$30,000,000, while during the same period our imports from the United States increased some \$46,000,000. And this condition is met with the utmost equanimity by these hon. gentlemen, whose slogan in 1911 was: No truck or trade with the Yankees. If that condition has arisen in the first few months of this great struggle, what may be the condition during the balance of the term of this war, whether it be long or short, when added to the disabilities the British trade labours under at present, it will have to meet an additional five per cent taxation placed upon it by this Canadian Government.

Whether or not the Minister of Finance intended to invoke a partisan discussion by his reference to my right hon. leader as attempting by his amendment to square his conscience for something he had done in this House a couple of years ago, I may tell the Minister of Finance that when he made that reference if he did not want a partisan discussion, he was treading on mighty dangerous ground. If I were to answer I would say to the Minister of Finance, that if the policy of Sir Wilfrid