

matter with which I was associated as to which I would be better prepared to go before the people from ocean to ocean, and look for a triumphant victory. But let us admit that at some day not too far distant we shall have an election. If hon. gentlemen opposite have the ghost of a hope of coming into power, why do they say that never again can this arrangement be changed? The agreement says that it can be changed by the parliament of Canada. Yet my hon. friend from South York says never again can it be changed; and when hon. gentlemen behind him slam their desks and applaud that sentiment, it means that never again in the present generation have these hon. gentlemen any hope of being placed in a position to change it.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition is evidently much troubled over this reciprocity matter. He has now given us three speeches on the subject, and he threatens us with one or two more.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not promise to be confined to that.

Mr. FIELDING. I think my hon. friend will find, before this thing gets through, that he will have to make a great many speeches; and when the time comes for him to go before the people of Canada and explain those speeches before the toiling masses of this Dominion, he will have occasion to make a great many. When I first heard the amendment of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, I did not think it was necessary. I thought it was rather useless. It talks about our loyalty and devotion. The man who flaunts his loyalty and the woman who flaunts her virtue are both open to suspicion.

Mr. MONK. Is my hon. friend opposed to the motion?

Mr. FIELDING. No, I am going to show my hon. friend that this motion is needed, and why.

Mr. MONK. If it is needed, my hon. friend had better not attack it.

Mr. FIELDING. It is needed by some persons and not by others—they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. My hon. friend proposes that we shall make a declaration of the loyalty and devotion of this House to British institutions. Sir, we on this side have no need of making any such declaration. If there is need for this motion, it is because hon. gentlemen opposite, by their own acts, have talked annexation in this country for the last month. Who ever heard of it before?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FIELDING. Yes, it was heard away back in 1849, when the Tory leaders signed

the annexation manifesto. In these later days, and in this more modern history in which it is our privilege to play a part, who ever heard any talk of annexation except when hon. gentlemen opposite wanted to use the old flag in order to cover up a bad political record in their attempt to obtain power which they could not obtain otherwise? If there are people in the United States to-day who think there is some annexation feeling in this country, what is the evidence to which they can point? They will say that the hon. members on that side of the House, in their public speeches, and that the press of the Conservative party, in its daily articles, are representing that this commercial proposal means annexation; and if there is any possible doubt—there is none on our side, I rejoice to say—in the minds of the people of Canada to-day as to the position of any man on this question of annexation, it is simply and solely because hon. gentlemen opposite have been proclaiming to the world that this fiscal arrangement has something to do with annexation.

Mr. SHARPE (Ontario). Is Champ Clark a Canadian?

Mr. FIELDING. I will come to Champ Clark in a moment. It is because these hon. gentlemen, and they alone, have been talking about annexation, and I call the people to witness that the only people who talk about annexation to-day are the members of the Tory party.

I have now explained why I agree with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) as to the need for this motion. As doubts and aspersions on the loyalty of our people have been provoked by the attitude of hon. gentlemen opposite, my hon. friend finds it necessary to come forward with a motion which practically says: Do not make any mistake; after all, though we have said a great many foolish things we do not mean them, and are good loyal subjects all the same. Therefore we on this side propose to vote for this motion, not because we think it necessary in our behalf, but because we think it is only right, after all that has happened, that hon. gentlemen opposite should have an opportunity of proclaiming to the world that they, who are the only party whose loyalty is in doubt, are devoted to British institutions.

Mr. MACDONELL. Might I put my hon. friend a question? He has made reference to the opportunities given for the discussion of this matter, I would like to ask if it be true that either before he and his colleague went to Washington or during the time they were there, certain Liberal members of this House were consulted by letter as to whether this proposed arrangement would be desirable or