

Colchester (Mr. Putnam), I have no doubt the Minister of Justice will now speak.

Mr. PUTNAM: Does the hon. gentleman expect me to give the exact data that would produce that result?

Mr. RYCKMAN: As nearly as you can.

Mr. PUTNAM: My hon. friend would like me to give approximate figures?

Mr. RYCKMAN: Yes, you asked me to.

Mr. PUTNAM: I do not know about that. I do know, however, that there is an obligation upon the leader of the opposition to give us information upon that point. I do know this—that before the right hon. gentleman went to the country at the last general election he told the people of Canada that he had still a long time to put up what he called a campaign of education; that before he would touch the tariff he would have a commission that would tell just the digit above which the tariff should not be raised as being too high, and just the digit below which it should not be lowered as being too low. If my hon. friend would use his good offices with the leader of the opposition and get him to redeem that promise he would really be in a better position to obtain an answer to that question and doubtless he would obtain some data from that source. I do not think the commission in question was ever dismissed.

Mr. GRAHAM: No it was parked.

Mr. PUTNAM: I have spoken at greater length than I intended.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. PUTNAM: It must be remembered that I alluded to the fallacy under which this protective policy of Sir John Macdonald was born, namely, that the tariff would be wiped away just as soon as the infant industries ceased to be babes and infants. That promise is still outstanding. Hon. gentlemen opposite twit us about every hour because they allege we have not carried out all our pre-election promises and particularly the platform of 1919. I believe, Mr. Speaker, in taking up these pre-election promises in their historic order. I would therefore carry my hon. friends back to that undoubted promise of their greatest chieftain, Sir John Macdonald, in 1878 when he said specifically, in terms the whole country is familiar with, that "protection was only a temporary evil, endure it for a little while until these industries get upon their feet." To-day in these belated days the Liberal government is making an attempt to redeem that promise

of the great Conservative chieftain. We ask hon. gentlemen opposite to take up the alleged broken platform and broken pre-election promises in their proper historic order. Let us dispose of the promise referred to first. The platform of 1919 is a platform which tries to honour the dust of Sir John Macdonald and to implement that chieftain's promise—a promise which in point of honour is as compelling as though it were only made yesterday; a promise which is all the more overdue because during the intervening decades the industries aided by the protective tariff have ceased to be infant industries. Sir John Macdonald passed away when this country was a good deal younger than it is to-day. I give credit to my hon. friend's great former leader for realizing that that promise was long overdue and that he intended to fulfil it. I do not think the late Conservative chieftain would sleep serenely in that quiet cemetery at Cataragui if he felt his promise would remain unfulfilled. I do not think he would sleep so well if he knew we were going to break faith with him, and therefore I call on hon. gentlemen opposite to support this budget and join with us in implementing the promise of Sir John Macdonald.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Before the hon. gentleman sits down will he tell us at what point the revenue tariff was fixed for boots and shoes, and at what point the protective tariff was fixed for the same industry?

Mr. PUTNAM: In reply I would ask my hon. friend at what point rubber tires should be fixed in the tariff?

Mr. RYCKMAN: I did not hear the question of the hon. and learned member for Colchester. I want to make my question very plain and I think I can do it in very few words. I understood the hon. and learned member for Colchester—

Mr. PUTNAM: Leave out the "learned".

Mr. RYCKMAN: —would tell us before he sat down where the line was drawn between a protective tariff and a revenue tariff on boots and shoes. If he can do so it will enlighten this side of the House.

Mr. PUTNAM: That would depend upon conditions.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Take conditions as they are to-day.

Mr. PUTNAM: I think we shall get help when the tariff commission appointed by the late government brings down the exact digits