

soon as you begin to try to spare industries and to build and encourage others, you admit the principle of protection. Mr. Foster, when Finance Minister, in the other House, a year or two ago, gave a definition of the difference between incidental protection and protection, between a revenue tariff and a protective system, and I think, if I heard the mover of the address aright the other day, he agreed with Mr. Foster's definition, as also did my friend the leader of the Opposition. Mr. Foster said :

The difference between a revenue tariff and a protective tariff is not that there may not be in both an incidental protection, but that in a purely revenue tariff that protection is simply incidental and not designed ; whilst in a protective tariff it is designed to be a protection and is put upon the statute-book for that purpose.

I think it is a clear indication that there is to be an entire departure from the principles of the revenue tariff which the party have been announcing since the elections and some time before the elections, although free trade, pure and simple, as they have it in England, was the main plank of the party—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Never, never.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The hon. gentleman shakes his head, and I presume he shakes it sincerely, and I suppose he is speaking his convictions when he says his party did not go for free trade as they have it in England, but I do not think my hon. friend travelled through the country during the elections, because if he had he would have heard something quite different. Down in the coal area of the Maritime Provinces the candidates of the Liberal party declared for protection for coal. In another part of the country the changes were rung on the great advantages of free trade over protection, while in the city of Montreal, as every hon. gentleman knows, the leader of the government himself declared that the policy of the party would be to have raw materials free, including coal and iron. I am sure my hon. friend the Secretary of State when he dissents from what I have said, is speaking what he feels, and that he is expressing his own experience with regard to the policy of the party ; but, unfortunately, most of us will agree that my hon. friend, when he says that, cannot speak for the representatives of the party in many of the

other provinces of Canada. Now, if time permitted, I might turn up declarations of Liberal gentlemen to show that a revenue tariff was the platform of the party, adopted, for instance, at this convention to which a reference was made. It is not necessary to take up the time of the Senate in reading these things. Most gentlemen are familiar with them, but at that convention the Hon. Mr. Laurier made use of these words :

I say that the policy should be a policy of free trade —

Here my hon. friend was evidently upon pretty safe and sure ground, but when he spoke in St. Johns, Quebec, about sending Mr. Fielding through the country to consult the people, it is plain that he has more than revenue requirements in view, and he is to consult these parties to see how far it is possible to protect them in a tariff framed by the Liberal party :

I say the policy should be a policy of free trade such as they have in England, but I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit at present of that policy in its entirety. But I propose to you that from this day henceforth it would be the goal to which we aspire. I propose to you from this day, although we cannot adopt the policy itself, to adopt the principle which regulates it ; that is to say, that though it should be your misfortune for many years to come to have to raise a revenue by customs duties, these duties should be levied only so far as is necessary to carry on the business of the government. I submit to you that not a cent should be extracted from the pockets of the people except every cent goes into the treasury of the people and not into the pockets of every one else. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection, our ideal is free trade. Their immediate object is protection, ours a tariff for revenue only. Upon this issue we engage the battle from this moment forward, and I ask you once more never to desist until we have achieved a victory.

Then the leadership was divided in the Liberal party before the elections. My hon. friend Mr. Davies was leader in the Maritime provinces, under the general leader Mr. Laurier. After the holding of the convention in June, 1893, Mr. Davies went to Middleton, N.S., and made a speech, which I have here, carefully reported, and revised, I have no doubt, by himself. It was published some weeks after its delivery. He says :

In ordinary times the difference between political parties are frequently those between the "ins" and "outs," but there comes times when little party issues disappear and the great historical par-