

This House, regarding the operation of the present tariff as unsatisfactory, is of opinion that this country requires a declared policy of such adequate protection to its labour, agricultural products, manufactures and industries, as will at all time secure the Canadian market for Canadians ;

And that the financial policy of the government should include a measure for the thorough and judicious readjustment of the tariff at the present session.

Some criticism has been made upon the wording of this resolution. Some gentlemen have found it difficult to attach any intelligent meaning to the word 'adequate.'

I have noticed on some occasions that the same hon. gentlemen made use of the word and found it good enough to serve their purpose. Let me say that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine) favours 'legitimate protection.' I have his language declaring that policy, under my hand, used by him in a recent campaign in Malsonneuve. I suppose that 'adequate' is quite as definite as 'legitimate,' particularly when coupled with the proviso that the protection we ask should be adequate to maintain the Canadian market for Canadians. My hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair), this session, when introducing his Railway Commission Bill, expressed his opinion that it would 'adequately protect' our shipping interests. Yet my hon. friend the Minister of Finance says that the phrase 'adequate protection' is absolutely meaningless. I commend his criticism to his hon. colleague, the Minister of Railways and Canals, and I trust that the speech of the latter will be revised in accordance with that criticism. I find also that the provincial premiers introduced the phrase three times in their resolutions which the government is now considering. Would it not be well for my hon. friend the Minister of Finance if he adheres to the opinion he expressed in Halifax, to send these resolutions back to the provincial premiers for an explanation of this meaningless phrase which they have used. But I have a better authority than all these, one I am sure my hon. friend the Minister of Finance will not question. A certain editor of a newspaper published in Halifax some years ago, and published

there still, used the following strong language with regard to the coal duty :

The coal duty is a confessed mockery—an organized hypocrisy. The coal owners of Nova Scotia have been fooled, as we predicted they would be ; they get no adequate protection.

My hon. friend the Minister of Finance, who wrote that article, does not understand now the meaning of the term 'adequate protection' which was then used by him in that article. That only shows how some of us travel backwards in our education.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. On both sides.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Most of us go a little forward, but my hon. friend, in this regard at least, has found himself travelling backward in his comprehension of the English language. With these excellent authorities, especially the last, perhaps the Minister of Finance may be inclined to reconsider his obiter dictum.

Sir, I concur in the eloquent words which my hon. friend the Minister of Finance uttered in his peroration. We all realize now the wealth of our resources, the splendour of our heritage. It is true that the Liberal leaders in days gone by did not entertain the same view of the great west which has been expressed so eloquently by the hon. gentleman. The great Conservative leaders of the past had opposed to them men who, in all sincerity, saw nothing in the province of British Columbia, save a sea of mountains, who saw nothing in our great west but a land incapable of paying for the oil required in operating a transcontinental railway. But let bygones be bygones. These gentlemen see now what the great Conservative leaders of bygone days saw years ago. We are glad that now we all think alike on this subject. We have a great country, a great heritage, and, therefore, great responsibilities. I fear not for the future of the west, nor do I believe that any narrow or sectional spirit now pervades or will pervade the people of that country. Like the people of the east, they will stand for a broad and strong Canadian policy, a policy which will give to our producers the advantage of our own markets, and to our labouring people a fair living wage; a policy which will keep our