

cannot be that he has receded from the position he has taken in this House in the past. Everybody must recollect the attitude of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton), in regard to the lumber duty, when he himself admitted on the floor of this House, that he cast himself adrift from his party, and upon his own responsibility did what he pleased. And, sitting in his place upon that occasion, the present First Minister, said, that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) had that great privilege that is always accorded to every member of the Liberal party, to do exactly what they are doing to-day—each one think and act for himself. Sir, I was about to make an appeal to the hon. gentleman. In view of the fact that that great party that once was heard so much about in the country and had so little votes in this House—the Third party—now, that it is decimated and cut to pieces through over one-third of the whole party being lost at the general elections; I thought that perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) might cut himself adrift from his own party, and as a political Ishmaelite be embraced with open arms into their camp.

I cannot believe, and I cannot conceive, that hon. gentlemen opposite are going against their own interests on this tariff question, and I hope and trust that when the tariff is brought down, that, in the interests of the great manufacturing industries of Canada, should there be any slashing and cutting of the tariff such as was prophesied by the hon. member from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), that hon. gentlemen opposite, irrespective of party, will join with us in protecting the best interests of the country as a whole. Sir, coming down to my own constituency, and its wants, and requirements—for I believe, secondly, it is the duty of every hon. gentleman in this House to ask for careful consideration in the matter of the tariff in regard to the interests which closely concern his own riding. I have, therefore, an appeal to make to the Government in regard to the carriage industry. In the town of Orillia there is an important carriage industry employing upwards of one hundred men. It has a large pay roll, and the owners of that factory have noticed with alarm that, year after year, the importations in their line from the United States have been increasing. I find from the returns, that while 832 buggies and vehicles were imported in 1895; last year, 1896, there were 1,564 imported, or nearly twice as many.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) be good enough to connect that argument with the motion before the House.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), as I understand it, is that the tariff is of much greater importance than the Franchise Bill, and surely a vital part of the tariff must be the

Mr. BENNETT.

interest of a large carriage industry in this country, and it is from that point of view that I direct the argument. Now, Sir, there is another vast industry in that northern country, which to-day is waiting with bated breath to see the attitude of the Government in respect to it. I refer to the lumber industry. What is the attitude of this Government on that question? The United States have announced, by what is known as the Dingley Bill, that upon every thousand feet of lumber passing from Canada to the United States, there shall be an import duty of \$2. From all I can learn, and from what I believe to be the fact, the imposition of such an enormous import duty will result in practically driving out of the American market our present large lumber trade. The other day the Minister of Finance was waited upon by a large and representative delegation from that northern country. They asked that if the United States persisted in placing that duty on lumber, then that some steps should be taken by this country in a retaliatory way, and that our tariff should be so arranged that in the event of the American Government charging more than \$1 a thousand upon Canadian white pine, there should be placed a prohibitory duty on saw logs exported from this country to the United States. I trust that that matter will receive the most careful consideration of the Government, and that it will result in this: that if the United States people are not prepared to deal fairly on the question of lumber duties, then, while it may not be a policy which we may wish to take, by way of reprisal this Government should stand firm and adopt the policy advocated. To-day the tariff is receiving a vast amount of attention from the business people of Canada, and I believe that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House would be prepared to forego their holidays, if the Government would even this week, bring down their tariff policy. That, Sir, I suppose is hardly to be expected. I trust, however, that the Government of the day will carefully consider all the overtures that have been made to them from business men throughout this entire Dominion, that they will consider every argument that has been adduced by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, and that they will also listen to the words of wisdom that have fallen from prominent members of the Senate on the Liberal side. In moving the Address last week in the Senate the hon. Mr. Cox said, very judiciously and wisely:

The importance to this country of the tariff legislation foreshadowed cannot be over-estimated. It is a matter fraught with consequences too serious to be influenced by the campaign speeches made by either political party under circumstances quite different from those that now exist.

Hon. gentlemen opposite will claim, and I think will be entitled to sympathy if they make a great political somersault. But I