

wavered in my adherence to free-trade doctrines. I am amazed to hear the hon. gentleman say that free-trade is not even an important fact in political economy.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—I did not say that. My expression was not synonymous. I said it was a branch and a subordinate branch of political economy.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—I can only say that I am surprised that any political student should say that the entire freedom of commerce and trade is a subordinate part of political economy. Why, Sir, I believe it is the very height of political economy. I believe there is nothing that conduces so much to the welfare of a great people as to have entire freedom of commerce. Who does not recollect when British shipping was hampered with all kinds of harassing legislation? Who does not remember when British shipping was not able to move about in the harbour without great annoyance, simply because the tonnage dues were imposed according to the size of the deck? Who does not know that whilst this tonnage was in existence, whilst this embarrassing protection lasted, whilst every British port was shut to every foreign vessel, and when British owners demanded British shipping for themselves, whilst no American ship could go to a British port or to a port of one of its colonies—who does not remember that the United States showed their power as an able nation, and that they were rapidly outstripping British shipping. But the moment the ports were thrown open to all parts of the world, and foreign vessels traded with Glasgow, London, Leith, Hull, Liverpool, or Quebec with the same ease as the British shipping—when the tonnage laws were repealed, when there was perfect and complete open competition for all kinds of shipping—who does not know, what student of political economy and history does not know, that from that moment British shipping took a start forward that has never been checked to this hour. My hon. friend behind me the other day said the check to American shipping was caused by the war in the United States. No doubt the war did

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a great deal of injury to the shipping, but it is a fact that the American shipping declined more rapidly after the war than during the war. It is a fact, as shown by a statement recently published, that the foreign traffic of the United States carried by American ships is at this moment less than it was at the closing year of the war, shewing that at the time of the excessive protection, where protection is admitted as a principle, that the shipping is being rapidly destroyed, while on the other hand the shipping of Great Britain and her colonies promise to soon absorb the entire foreign commerce of the world. And yet the right hon. gentleman says that freedom of commerce is but a subordinate part of political economy. But the right hon. gentleman guards himself; he goes for moderate protection. At one part of his speech he would seem to indicate definitely that he had decided to adopt protection as his political creed, but he took care to qualify this. He says he favours a moderate protection, and he illustrated it by suggesting that it would be a very good thing to let a little water out of our lake in order to drive machinery, but it would be very disastrous if we let the whole lake out, as it would sweep the whole machinery away. I am afraid his illustration is unfortunate; for if a little protection will drive trade a little, a great deal of protection will sweep away the trade altogether. The right hon. gentleman admits this by his illustration, if it means anything; and the hon. gentleman is right. It would be the worst thing that could happen to adopt protection as a principle, because that means that everybody must be protected alike, or else some person is to suffer injustice. Who is to suffer injustice? The right hon. gentleman says Canada is young, and that it must be led gently until it grows up to manhood, and able to take care of itself. But who is to be its nurse? Who is to take care of the child?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—It's dry nurse!

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—A very dry nurse! The hon. gentleman reminds one of the man standing in a tub and trying to lift himself by the