

will appreciate the wisdom of the Prime Minister and his associates in bringing down the budget, which I believe spells success for the whole nation.

We have been told by our opponents that we have not kept our promises, particularly our fiscal promises. The Prime Minister has on many occasions in this House made it clear that the platform of the Liberal party of 1919—and I had the honor of being at that convention—was a chart to guide the government in taking such a course as would best meet the diversified interest of this country, commercial, agrarian and industrial. When our friends opposite charge us with lack of faith, I retort that the government has shown true statesmanship in making such fiscal adjustments as appear in the budget, without disturbing those underlying principles which govern the prosperity of all sections of the country. I remember in 1911 in the great city of Toronto—where the prayer for protection is accompanied by the prayer that they shall have nothing but eternal prohibition—I remember in 1911 when the Liberal party was appealing to the country on reciprocity the leaders of finance and industry in Toronto, who were against it, said that the keystone of the arch of reciprocity in this country was wheat. Well, Sir, if that was so, why in the budget brought down in 1919 by the then Minister of Finance, Sir Thomas White, did he put wheat and grain products, including flour, on the free list, leaving the market open to our friends to the south of us? I assert that the Conservative party were not returned to power on the policy of reducing the tariff on wheat, to the point of making it negligible. But Sir Thomas White as Minister of Finance saw the necessity of taking that course at the time, just as the Acting Minister of Finance realizes today the conditions which he must meet with his budget. The budget may not be four-square with every utterance of our public men on the side of Liberalism, but it is four-square with the principle that the government must do what is right. And if in the past they made the mistake of promising too much, for the future they may not make so many promises but rather do what they believe to be right at the time and therefore in the interests of the country.

Now, Sir, in 1896, when that veteran of Conservatism, the late Sir Charles Tupper, was in his prime, he spoke of the awful wail that was going forth from our industries that were being crushed and annihilated by the budget of the Liberal government, and he

drew a picture of gloom and ruin that staggered the imagination of the people. But not a scintilla of evidence has been produced up to the present time to bear him out. His gloomy predictions have been repeated from time to time by the various leaders of the Conservative party who have succeeded him. But the history of this country from 1896 to 1911 completely contradicted those forebodings, and we can say confidently that the sage of the Conservative party was wrong, and with equal confidence we can say that his successors are wrong to-day.

The basic industries of this country are its very life blood. If we disregard agriculture, lumbering, mining and fishing, our economic foundation must surely fall. I do not say that these basic industries alone should be the infants, the children, the youth or the men of any government, but we must admit that they and particularly agriculture, are the foundation and stepping-stones of our national success. As the great West develops and is filled with people of the type of hon. gentlemen opposite, those people will give aid to the East and the East will in its turn by its industrial development help the West, and with East and West flourishing we will have a condition to remind us of that era of prosperity to which I referred a few minutes ago.

Coming from an industrial as well as an agricultural county, from a province which follows both these activities as well as lumbering and fishing, I would be recreant in my duty, I would be untrue to my trust, did I not say here and now that the industries of this country must receive that measure of protection which is due them in order that they may survive, in order that they may grow and prosper. But they have passed the infant stage; they are old enough now to sit up and take notice and vote when occasion requires, and much as I desire to stand behind industry, I must say to them that as one of the younger men in the public life of this country it is my duty to do them justice and nothing but justice. If manufacturers availed themselves of protection in order to retain markets and to sell their goods at reasonable prices, then protection would be all right as a barrier, but the moment they take advantage of 85, 90 or 95 per cent of that protection and add it to the selling price of their goods, they stultify themselves, they wrong the working classes, whether on the farm, in the machine shop or in the fisheries. All men have a right to live, and if we approach the fiscal problems of Canada in that spirit, if we deal with those