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labor and of the women of the country to advise the Government with respect to tariff changes, the Government taking the responsibility of bringing into the House such changes as they think essential."

Mr. King then reviewed historically the tariff question. He defined the tariff as a tax by whatever name it is called. Fielding, under the Laurier Government, reduced the tariff and introduced the British preference, thus giving greater prosperity to Canada, and increasing trade within the Empire. England has never put up a tariff against us, but Mr. Meighen says "If I have my way I will not allow England this preference in our markets unless she puts up a tariff wall against other countries." That is the Tory point of view—to create more walls. We claim it is for England to say whether they shall tax their own people in this way or not. We do not believe the British Empire can be brought together by one part dictating to another; nor do we believe it can be kept together by setting up walls against each other. Fielding's policy helped to stimulate trade, and the parts it helped most were the Maritime Provinces.

"I want to emphasize the question of Maritime rights. What are these rights? That is what I want to know. I know of some rights. One is that the people of the Maritime Provinces should have the right to as wide a market as they can get. Another Maritime right is that they should have as much trade through their own ports as it is possible to get. But the whole Liberal policy, as I see it, is a policy which aims to give to the people of the different parts of the country the rights to which they are entitled.

"The Maritime Provinces also have the right to be taxed just as little as they need to be taxed. That is why I don't believe in high protection. High protection is high taxation."

A third benefit introduced by the Laurier Government, Mr. King

claimed, was in relation to wider markets. The nearest markets we have are the United States. Sir Wilfrid went to the country on that issue when he advocated Reciprocity. That was turned down, but would we not be better off today if we in the Maritime Provinces had the American market for our fish and potatoes? We couldn't get it for the very reason which Mr. Meighen is advocating today, because against the cry of Reciprocity was put up the cry of higher protection. "There is as much danger in high protection for Canada today as there was then and we ask you to consider your own interests in the light of your experience during the last few years."

Canada was in a different position when the National Policy was instituted by Sir John A. Macdonald, Mr. King continued. The different colonies came together trying to feel their way to national unity, and Sir John said: "Till we get some factories started we will draw a tariff wall around this country and try to develop a home market." Looking back on those days one can see that in starting to build up a country that policy might serve a useful purpose. England, as Senator Robertson has argued, started with protection in the same way. But she had enough sense to quit when she began to produce more than England herself could consume.

"We are not back in 1879; we are today in 1925, though Mr. Meighen does not seem to know it. What this country needs is not home markets. How much of your produce would be left over if you had only the home markets to supply? You can only stuff so much grain or so much potatoes or so much fish into a man or woman in the course of a year. You would have used up 100,000,000 bushels of grain in that way this year and you would have left over 275,000,000 bushels which the home market cannot consume. We can compete with the world in certain things, but if we are to do so we must trade with the world.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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