

the Northwest Territories. There is not a shop in the Territories where tobacco is sold, in which the man inside the counter does not say to the purchaser: Which will you have? This is the Conservative plug, and here is the Liberal plug. I now show you, Mr. Speaker, a specimen of each plug and can anyone be surprised that the customer should say: Give me the Conservative plug for that is a solid plug. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is, and just compare it with the other—the Liberal plug. Well, there is the same difference between the Liberal policy and the Conservative policy. The Conservative policy is solid and sound and what it professes to be, but the Liberal policy is just as that Liberal plug of tobacco—too light, and the people will not have it. Neither will they long stand the light weight which these gentlemen are now dealing out to them.

Let me read further from this, which was the campaign sheet of the Liberal party in 1882. It is headed "Taxes"—and mark you, Mr. Speaker, the present Government have kept the tariff about the same as it was in 1881, which they then so vigorously denounced, as you will see by this pamphlet. Here is what I find at the very start in this pamphlet:

"Taxes.—Sir John, by his National Policy, committed himself to the policy of levying taxes on grain and coal."

Well, we can likewise say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by retaining that same tariff today, has committed himself to the policy of levying taxes on grain and coal. Then the pamphlet goes on:

"Such a tax has raised the price of every ton of coal the poor man has to buy."

Why, we know it has, especially we the Northwest where fuel is dear and scarce; and these hon. gentlemen opposite have consequently not kept their promise to the poor man, when, by their tariff, they retain this tax. I further read:

"The tax on coal has also increased the cost of production. An increase in the cost of production reduces

"the profits of manufacturers—a reduction of their profits lowers the rate of the workingman's wages. It at the same time raises the price of fuel to the workingman, as the tax on wheat has raised the price of his bread. Sir John's policy, then, weakens home manufactures, lowers the rate of wages, and increases the cost of living."

Well, that is the language in which the Liberal party denounced a tariff which was practically the same as the tariff we now have. (Cheers.) We know what they have done about cotton. They condemned, when in Opposition, in the strongest possible manner, the tariff on cotton, and yet they have, when in office, raised the duty on the poor man's cotton. In view of these circumstances, is it to be supposed that the farmers of the Northwest, or the farmers of this country generally, can be content? How can they be content when they find that promise after promise has been belied? We were promised in the Northwest, and we took great stock in the promise, that the expenditure would be lowered. But what has taken place? The expenditure has been raised by \$1,400,000. I shall not give you all the items, but only those that most concerns us in the Territories. I must again express my regret at not seeing the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) in his place, because I intend bringing something before the House which interests him, and which, if he will not answer here, he will have to answer later before Canada. He promised to reduce the expenditure in the management of the Indian Department, and he took away from Regina the Indian Commissioner's Office, on the pretence that he would thereby lower the expenditure. He also dismissed men wholesale from the Indian Department on the same pretence. But what are the facts? At this moment, in 1897, the cost of running the Indian Department is \$17,000 higher than it was in 1896. How is he going to get over that? I would like to have him here to explain, but I suppose he will, if I may quote one of the figures used