

not prepared to say that I or any other hon. member need fear censure for what we did on that occasion.

Mr. W. F. COCKSHUTT (Brantford). Before the question is put, I desire to say a word regarding the speech from the Throne. What this House was called together particularly for was to deal with the tariff problem. Last year when the tariff commission was appointed I asked whether it was a life-saving crew or simply a coroner's jury. By that I meant whether it was intended to rescue the expiring industries of Canada or simply intended to bring in a verdict as to why they died. It appears now the latter is the case. This is not a new matter. I have positive knowledge that for at least four years this government has promised tariff revision. We sent a deputation from Brantford four years ago to interview the government on this very matter. We were asked then to keep a certain industry afloat, which was in a dying condition, and that later it would receive assistance from the government. That was the cutlery industry which has since been obliged to shut down. The minister said the tariff would engage the attention of the government the following year and therefore nothing would be done that year. The ministers were going over to the colonial conference and expected some arrangements might be made there which might affect the tariff and it would not do to make any change just then. Again the following year the government promised relief. They went to the country in 1904, and if I remember rightly the First Minister made at Valleyfield a speech promising shortly a revision of the tariff. We have now come to the second session, and we are told that the principal business which we supposed we were called together for, is not to be dealt with. Why delay for two months the calling of the House together in order that the tariff commission might make their proposed revision, and then, when we meet two months later, be told that the tariff is not to be dealt with at all. That surely is a very strange proceeding. The country expects that if tariff alterations are needed they should speedily be forthcoming. This government however, appears to think that there is no necessity for them to redeem their pledges. I believe this government does not sincerely intend to make any material changes in the tariff. It may be said that no industries are suffering, but I took occasion last session to point out several. Take for instance the binder twine industry, which has some 12 factories, two of which are located in my constituency. They made urgent representations to the government to save the millions of dollars of capital invested in that industry and protect the workingmen engaged in it by giving some compensation for the injury inflicted by the government giving a free entry to American twine. I believe the duty was 12½ per cent when this government came in. Since

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then, the article has been made entirely free. If I am rightly informed, 40,000 farmers in this country have stock in binder twine concerns. If there is one product more than another in the manufacture of which the farmer has the right to be interested, it is binder twine, an article that he uses every day in summer on his farm, an article that he understands, and the price of which he watches thoroughly. These men ventured their money in this industry in good faith. In my own county, I believe, there are upwards of 4,000 farmers interested in the manufacture of binder twine. These industries in some cases, are in a dying condition. In others they are in a dead condition. The factory in Brandon is closed up. The fate of other factories is trembling in the balance. Yet the government declare that they are not prepared to do anything.

Then there is the case of the woollen industry. The people engaged in that industry have sent deputation after deputation to impress upon the authorities the need of immediate action. We have seen several mills sold under the hammer. But the government is not ready to move even yet. Other industries must die; other millions of capital must be wiped out before this government will rise to the occasion and redeem their sacred promise that, if returned to power, they would immediately revise the tariff. This is the second session of parliament and now they tell us that although they have travelled all over the country and obtained all the information, still they do not propose to act. I, for one, raise my voice against this conduct. I think this House should have proceeded to deal with this question immediately. It would not have taken very long if dealt with in a businesslike way. There are industries at this moment that demand the attention of this parliament. An increase of the tariff is necessary as much in the interest of the farmer as to the manufacturer. This country is no longer an agricultural country, pure and simple, but is largely a manufacturing country. The products of the factories fully equal, if they do not exceed, those of the farm. Hon. gentlemen opposite may dispute that, but I believe that the census prepared by the Minister of Agriculture, who is an authority on these matters, will show that the factories of Canada are producing as much as its farms and that the workmen in the factories are as numerous as the farmers and therefore entitled to equal consideration with the others. I do not ask that injustice be done to the farmers—far from it. Even farmers in my own county are asking for an increase in the tariff. I believe that the market gardeners in Centre York, represented by an hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Campbell), have asked for the same thing. Throughout the province of Ontario many farmers are in favour of tariff revision,