

world moves, and we may prove to be nearer that result than the people suppose. If such a treaty were negotiated, every farm with 100 acres of good land would be worth more as regards the value of its products by at least \$100 a year than at present and this amount spread over the whole country would be decidedly advantageous, and it would certainly assist in keeping our own people in the country. There is another good sign of the times. In the other Chamber—which usually displays very little interest in the discussion of public questions—there is a thorough tariff reformer in the person of Senator Boulton. He has studied the question thoroughly, and notwithstanding frequent interruptions while speaking the other day, he succeeded in making his point. He showed that in Manitoba, where there is an average duty of 25 per cent, while the export of wheat reached \$10,000,000, only \$7,500,000 were realized, because of this duty. If Manitoba is to become prosperous, a great change must be brought about. The Minister of the Interior spoke the other evening as if the immigration department was suffering from dry rot, which, I suppose, meant that the country did not get the value of the money expended. He, however, explained nothing with respect to the policy he intends to pursue, although it is evident that if Manitoba is to increase in population, the burdens on the people must be reduced. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) the other day mentioned that barbed wire was sold in Chicago by the car lot for \$2.35 and \$2.40 per 100 pounds, but in Manitoba the farmers were compelled to pay from \$6 to \$7 per 100 pounds. It is the same in regard to everything the farmer has to buy, and so while he may raise a good crop, when he has paid the duty and expense, there is little or nothing left. Senator Boulton also mentioned that he sold oats for 13 cents per bushel, and the cost of carriage was 20 cents; wheat he had sold at from 25 to 50 cents and the carriage was 30 cents per bushel. When these facts are taken into account, it is evident that the only way of increasing immigration is to remove these incumbrances. It is useless to bring people into the country at great expense, because no sooner have they reached there, than they leave when opportunity offers, and it is apparent to everyone that that fine country has not made the progress that the people might fairly have expected.

Mr. SPROULE. Where can you buy wheat in Manitoba for 30 cents a bushel? We offered 60 cents and could not get it.

Mr. SEMPLE. That is Senator Boulton's statement regarding the wheat sold by him. At the present time there are three farmers' organizations in the country. One of these is the Farmers' Institute. At a meeting held in Toronto the following resolution was adopted:—

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That whereas the farmers of Canada during the last thirteen years have largely supported a protective policy for the purpose of establishing and building up the manufacturing interests of this country, and whereas such manufacturing industries as are suitable for this country have received such assistance for a period long enough to enable them to withstand fair and open competition; and whereas, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at its annual meeting held in Toronto, 7th February, declares and reaffirms its determination to support and perpetuate the high tariff policy,—

Be it therefore resolved, that this meeting hereby declares and affirms that to continue and perpetuate such high tariff policy will be detrimental to the vital interests of the agricultural community, that we are of the opinion that the time has come for the adoption of free trade with Britain, and the same privilege to foreign countries that will give a like privilege to us.

Last year I received a petition from the Grange, another farmers' association, on the subject. I received the following communication from the secretary of the association, Mr. Wilkie:—

We think it only reasonable that the binder twine of the farmer should be exempt from duty, when the hooks, nets, seines, and twine of the fishermen pays no duty. Not that we find any fault with this, but we ask the same condition for the farmer's binder twine. Little or no twine is imported. The raw material pays no duty and the 25 per cent duty enables the combine to extort just so much more from the consumers for their own extra profits. The American duty is only  $\frac{1}{5}$  of a cent per pound, which makes twine cheaper there than here.

Another farmers' association, which has a large membership although it has not been long in existence, is that known as the Patrons of Industry. I understand a respectable deputation was in the city the other day requesting the Minister of Finance to take into his serious consideration the advisability of reducing the duty on binding twine, coal oil, corn and barbed wire. The association's platform includes:

Tariff for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries, and not upon the necessaries of life.

Reciprocal trade on fair and equitable terms between Canada and the United States.

These are the two great changes needed to benefit the farmers of this country. Now, Sir, a great deal has been said about annexation, and constant taunts in reference to it have been thrown across the floor of this House, but I consider that the present Government is in a large measure responsible for this sentiment in Ontario. I am glad to say that in my section of the province I hear very little of annexation, but in the sections which are contiguous to the United States, and where the people deal most with the United States and know the advantages of that trade, there is, I understand, a wide feeling in favour of political union. These people have been told by hon. gentlemen opposite, in the press, and on the platform, and in this House: that the meaning of unrestricted reciprocity and freer trade between the two countries, is annexation. They have come to