

views that are expressed by the organization, or with the course they thought wisest to take as a political party, yet my sympathies were entirely with them in the efforts they were putting forth. They are, as I said before, an organization of farmers, though as yet without much political experience. The farming community, although in a vast majority in the country, are in a minority in its legislative power, and while, as I said before, I do not altogether approve of their becoming a distinct political party, yet I certainly think that their influence in the councils of the country should be much greater than it is. The industrial population of Canada numbers 1,320,000 souls. That is the industrial workers—the males over 15 years of age. In that is not included the females, such as domestic servants and women and children working in the mills; but the industrial workers of the country are 1,320,000 males. Of that population 620,000, or exactly one-half, are connected with the soil; so that the farming community numbers 50 per cent of the whole of the industrial population of the country. The rest of the population is made up of the various professions, the manufacturers, trade and transportation, labourers, etc., and of the whole of that industrial population the farming community numbers one-half. Now, in the representation that has been sent to parliament during this late election, we find that there are 63 lawyers as representatives of the people, and in drawing public attention to that fact I do not desire to cast any slur upon the attainments of our professional classes. I forget exactly as to the others though I saw the figures—the number of doctors, the number of merchants and so on; but of the 215 representatives to parliament for the ensuing five years, only 33 farmers have been returned. Now while the farming community represent one-half of the whole industrial population of the country, they have only been able to send 33 of their own number to the legislative halls of parliament to represent the agricultural classes, I say, hon. gentlemen, that there must be something wrong, there must be something either wrong with the farmers themselves, with their education or their capacity, or there must be something wrong in the mode in which the conventions are conducted which throws the influence and power into the hands of the people who live in the towns rather than in the rural

districts. The party system which narrows the choice of the people to two candidates has mostly to do with that particular state of affairs and in order to avoid and to change it, as I said before, the Patrons of Industry have formed an organization for the purpose of remedying that grievance, remedying what I consider to be an evil because it is an evil. The people with the greatest capacity in Canada I believe may be found amongst the farming community. They are the guardians of the soil, which is the backbone and safety of the country. They are the producers of the largest amount of wealth, and the majority of the exports is the product of their industry, and in every way they are entitled to a greater representation at the hands of the people of Canada than is presented to us in the election of only 33 out of 215 members, and for the purpose of remedying that, as I said before, this organization was formed. Thirty-three is the influence they are able to wield in the caucus of the parties which determines their policy. In a caucus of their own organization they are not dominated by those powerful influences that control parties under protection. In order to assist them and show my sympathy in regard to that, I took my stand with the Patrons of Industry, being as well closely identified with the farming interests of Manitoba. They certainly were not very successful in electing representatives, because they were fighting their way between two old organized parties and it was an uphill work. But at any rate they showed their strength and they have induced a certain amount of respect for themselves in so far as they have shown that they can control the balance of power in the constituencies where they have placed their candidates. Where there were three candidates it has unsettled the representation and made a material difference I have no doubt in the return of the members of parliament. It is only for the farmers generally to recognize that this association is of some value to themselves, and when they ally themselves more generally with it then they may expect to increase their representation in parliament and when they do so I think that the parliament of the country will be greatly advantaged by it. Now, Mr. Speaker and hon. gentlemen, I cannot agree with those who have found fault with the Hon. Mr. Laurier in the utterances he felt it advisable to set forth with regard to