

tariff off wheat, which would be no sacrifice whatever, and we get entry into the United States market for our wheat. I want to remind the ministers that they know as well as I know that Western grain growers do not fear competition from the United States or anywhere else. In fact, one of the peculiarities of this Government, as distinguished from the Opposition, is that they have no faith in their own country. They tell us we must not trade with the United States or we should be annexed; they told us last year we could not build ships in this country, and now they are afraid apparently that our wheat in the West can be successfully competed against from abroad. I want to tell my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, who no doubt is seriously considering this question, that we in the West have confidence in our country, that we have confidence in our wheat, and that we believe that no wheat anywhere can compete with it because we produce the best in the world. That is the kind of Canadianism we believe in. There was another argument used two years ago that need not frighten my hon. friends opposite now. They told us: there is no market to the south of us. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in that wonderful four hour speech, used the famous illustration of the jack knife. He said: why, you cannot do any business with the United States because they produce the same materials that we do; it would be like two men trying to make themselves richer by exchanging jack knives. But, let me call the attention of the minister to the enlightenment which they no doubt have already got as to the substantial nature of the exchanges that are going on between us and the United States. The tariff on cattle has been removed entirely. In the year 1912, 7,600 head of cattle all told went from Canada to the United States, and it is admitted that since the Woodrow Wilson tariff went into operation 100,000 head of cattle have gone below the line. So, our friends opposite need not tell us any more that we cannot do business with the United States. I never argue this question on the ground of price, but I am pleased to inform the Government and their supporters that those who argued that reciprocity would bring us higher prices have been fully borne out by events, because it is a fact that the cattle raisers of Alberta have received one dollar per hundred pounds more for cattle last year than they have ever received

during the time I have been in this country. The result of the Woodrow Wilson tariff has been that there is an enormous increase in the sale of Canadian cattle. The tariff on oats has been reduced, and what has been the result? It is established that in the year 1912 we sold the magnificent quantity of 183,000 bushels of oats to the United States, whereas since the Woodrow Wilson tariff came into operation we have sold something in the neighbourhood of twenty million bushels in a couple of months. There is no question any longer as to whether there is a market for us in the United States; we know now we have a market there. And, Sir, I want to point out what would be the result of these dealings with the United States. The result must inevitably be increased production of cattle and oats in the western provinces. Increased production will lead to increased settlement; increased settlement will lead to increased immigration, increased immigration will bring in increased capital, which will benefit every portion of the Dominion. That is what we lost by the rejection of the reciprocity pact.

I want to go a little further into an examination of this free wheat project. It is a very peculiar spectacle which presents itself to us in the matter of the grain growers and farmers of the West coming to the Government and seeking the abolition of the tariff upon their own product. I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact that usually when an interest comes to the Government in connection with the tariff it is to request that the tariff be increased upon their products, or that it may be allowed to remain without reduction. And, curiously enough, in a protectionist country like this, and with a protectionist Government like this, these people get an extraordinary amount of consideration. Now, representing the farmers of the West, I want to ask the Government why it is they do not give the same consideration to the men engaged in the industry of agriculture when they come to ask that the tariff upon wheat should be abolished—and that is all they are asking for—that they give to the manufacturers of this country who come to them with respect to the tariff on their products. Have the farmers not the right to speak for their own industry? What is sacrosanct or holy about manufacturers so called that they should receive very much attention from the Government and that no heed should be paid to the plea of the