

necessaries of life, and we know what is now taking place. It is a thing not to be tolerated for a moment; and the farmers of the North-west would hold me as false to my duty to them if I did not put this motion on the paper, declaring that good faith should compel the Government to place agricultural implements on the free list.

But before I sit down I have to say something—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. I have to say something else—hon. gentlemen should let me finish the sentence. In the course of my remarks the last time, I referred to my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver). My hon. friend evidently thought that I had done him some wrong, though certainly if I did, I did it unwittingly, and my hon. friend sent me the "Hansard." What I did was to take a quotation from my hon. friend's speech that had appeared in the Medicine Hat "News," and I am free to confess that it does not quite accord, as sometimes happens in a newspaper, with what was said; but I am very glad that my hon. friend called my attention to it, because I think what he said suits me almost better than what was in the Medicine Hat "News." My hon. friend said:

I will say further, that the people of the North-west—at least that section of them I claim to represent—are sensible people, and they are not disappointed at the leader of this Government not doing what, in the first place, it would be unreasonable to expect of him, and what, in the second place, would be an impossibility. They do not expect a revision of the tariff at a moment's notice. But they do expect a revision of the tariff, and they expect a thorough revision.

That expectation is still unfulfilled:

They expect a revision of the tariff that will be in their interest, and I have every confidence they will get that revision from the present Government, and they will get it in good time.

My hon. friend is an instance of misplaced confidence, because he has not got it yet.

I wish further to point this out, sir: the agricultural season in that country is very nearly over, the purchase of farm machinery for the season has been made, and the reduction of the duty which will take effect during the coming winter will be just as beneficial to the people of the North-west as if it were made now.

Showing what my hon. friend expected, and it has not taken place yet, because implements are still at 20 per cent, as they were at that time. Why, Sir, the snows of 1896-97 are gone, and the snows of 1897-98 are pretty well gone, and still what my hon. friend expected has not taken place.

Now, Sir, the same person to whom I have already referred commented on a reference I made to my right hon. friend the leader of the Government. That reference, it seems, struck my friend as not in good

taste because the right hon. leader of the House is poorly. I wish to read what I did say, because, of course, the papers only gave the briefest summary of my remarks. I could not expect them to do otherwise, because they have only a certain amount of space, and I might well be content with the space I got in most of them. They reported me as saying:

Now the people were rising against the Government which did not keep its promises, and the colour of death was upon it. He had noticed that the people of Hull named a street of their city Laurier Avenue, but following it up he found the avenue led to a graveyard.

What do you think the same writer led the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba to understand from that? That I was speaking of the health of the Prime Minister. I, therefore, feel bound to read what I did say, and it will be seen that I was not thinking of the health of the right hon. gentleman at all, but of the health of the Government. This is what I said:

I want to call the attention of my hon. friend who is now leading the House (Sir Richard Cartwright)—and I am glad to see him leading it, because he leads it with grace and dignity—I want to call his attention to what he said in 1895:

"This is not a case for half measures. You have in the fate of the Democratic party of the United States a warning and an example of the doom which will overtake any party that palter with its convictions, and after having placed itself at the head of a great popular movement, will offer the people a stone instead of bread."

That was what the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce said would be the fate of a party that did not keep its promises, and it was because of hints thrown out here and there, which came to his ears and, no doubt, shocked his sense of principle and convictions as a free trader, that he held out this warning flag to his party. Commenting on this prophetic warning, I went on to say:

That is the language which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce used when speaking of the Liberal policy with regard to the tariff.

Now, Sir, these are weighty words, and they seem to be prophetic as well as weighty, for already the indignation of this people of Canada, this outraged and betrayed people, is rising against a Government that does not regard its promises, its programmes or its professions. And, Sir, what I said in 1896 could be said with still more truth now, the pallor of death is already upon the face of that moribund Ministry.

It is quite clear that I was speaking of the Ministry, and not at all of the right hon. gentleman who is leading it. Then I went on to make a perfectly clear and legitimate use of a circumstance, because, as Virgil says, there are tears in things, and another Latin poet says there is a prophetic element in the commonest events. I went on to say:

I was walking in the city of Hull the other day. I found that they were changing the names of the streets there, and that in this baptizing of streets they called one avenue Lau-