

Canada—a policy kept on the statute-book by this government until every class of people in Canada are satisfied with present conditions. Our trade is expanding, our natural resources are being developed by our own energy, and with the assistance that we get from the United States and from England in particular in the shape of large investments of money. The policy that has made Canada the admiration of the world is the policy that in my opinion ought to be continued, and that policy is Canada for the Canadians, not Canada for the United States people.

Mr. JOHN P. MOLLOY (Provencher). Mr. Chairman, I have listened with pleasure to the remarks of the hon. member who has just taken his seat. They were in line with what we would naturally expect from him as a strong protectionist. I am not a strong protectionist—quite the opposite. On this question I propose to speak from the point of view of a Manitoba man as well as a Canadian, and I believe I shall have the support of every man from the province of Manitoba. The great majority of course are Conservatives; but before I came to this House, every once in a while the Conservative newspaper in Winnipeg, the 'Telegram,' told us of the many things that the three Conservative members were anxious and willing to do for the farmers of Manitoba. My good friend from Souris (Mr. Schaffner) never forgets to remind this House that he moved for a reduction of the duty on agricultural implements to 10 per cent. At the same time, he cannot forget that he voted for the motion of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier that this reciprocity agreement be delayed—that in 40 years the Canadian people have not had time to give it that consideration which it deserves. Every member of this House from the province of Manitoba with the exception of myself voted for that motion. But this question is a question of vital importance to the farmers of Manitoba, and every one of us, including the hon. member for Winnipeg, who in reality represents a rural county. If it were not for the rural counties in the province of Manitoba there would be no Winnipeg; and, as I believe that this agreement is in the interest of the producer in the province of Manitoba, it should receive the support of all the hon. members from that province. They must do one of two things: they must either support it—and that I am sure will be the wish of their constituents—or they must oppose it. They cannot stand for one thing and vote for another, if they do not support it they class themselves with the black princes of protection who when it suits them wear the spurs of free traders. For my part, I am going

Mr. BLAIN.

to vote for the agreement, the whole agreement, and nothing but the agreement, and I hope for the early ratification of the same. So far as I am concerned, and I believe the people I represent, we are not too well pleased with the amount of reduction in the duty on agricultural implements. It might have been greater, but still there is a reduction of from 2½ to 5 per cent. The hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) in a very able speech, to which he must have given a great deal of thought and time, moved that the reduction of the duty on agricultural implements be substantial. From that day to this we have not heard from the hon. member regarding this reduction. We have not heard from either that hon. gentleman or any other member from the province of Manitoba about the various articles which have been put on the free list. We have not heard whether they favour free wheat, free oats or free barley. I will vote for this agreement for this reason, if for no other, that it has lowered the duties on many articles and that it has not increased the duty on a single article and made many things free. I say that it is in the interest not only of the producer, but of the consumer, and, therefore, I will support it. I profess to speak only for the part of western Canada which I represent. On the day that this agreement was placed before the House, the 26th of January, I took care to put myself in touch with the people I represent. I wrote to a number of the ablest and most level-headed men of the county of Provencher, and the first reply I received was to this effect: The reciprocity agreement known as the Taft-Fielding agreement, has many friends in the district, the people believing it to be the greatest and most popular thing this government has done for the people of Canada. The next letter I received was worded something like this: In that portion of the county in which I live, I have made it my business to inquire, and the only man I have found opposed to this agreement is a gentleman who is the president of the Conservative Association of the county. Therefore, I believe that I shall be justified in voting for this agreement in toto. I am convinced that it will develop, not alone the province of Manitoba, but every province in the Dominion. I was informed not later than the night before last by one of the most prosperous farmers in Manitoba, known very well to my hon. friend from Macdonald (Mr. Staples)—

Mr. STAPLES. Who is he?

Mr. MOLLOY. Mr. James Riddell, my hon. friend's opponent in 1904. I made the statement some time ago that I believed this agreement would increase in value at