

price for their products is it not equally fair that the British Columbians should pay the producers of Ontario a fair price for their products. I submit it is only fair-play that we should put the same duty of 45 cents a bushel against American beans as they put against ours; indeed I would make the Canadian duty 60 cents per bushel and thus compel the British Columbia people to buy our beans.

Now, Sir, there is another important matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the House. I come from a corn-growing district and I enter my protest in this House to-night against corn being allowed to come into Canada free of duty. I say that that policy is a curse to the Canadian farmer; I say that free corn while it possibly helps the large cattle feeder, is ruinous to the hundreds of farmers in Canada who produce corn and who should have protection. I have shown that over 15,000,000 bushels of free corn came into Canada in the last two years from the United States, and I make the statement without fear of contradiction that if 15,000,000 bushels of free corn is dumped into this country it must necessarily displace the consumption of 15,000,000 bushels of our coarser grains, such as peas, oats and barley. Our farmers are obliged to accept a ruinously low price for their corn whereas if we had protection they would get a fair and legitimate price. The American farmer has not only the privilege of sending his corn free into Canada, but he has an advantage over our Canadian farmer of at least 8 cents per bushel on freight rates, because corn can be shipped from Chicago to the vicinity of Kingston at from 4 to 4½ cents per bushel while the corn-growers of western Canada are compelled to pay from 10 to 12 cents per bushel freight to these points. That proves that the American farmer has not only the advantage of free corn, but that he has an advantage over the Canadian farmer of 8 cents per bushel in freight rates alone. If it is fair that the people of the other provinces should be protected upon their products of lumber and on their coal fields, is it not fair that we in western Ontario should be protected upon our corn fields? I state here, knowing the truth of my statement, that in my district we cannot grow corn at the price we are compelled to sell it for at times. We were forced to sell our immense corn crop a short time ago at from 25 to 30 cents per bushel and no farmer can afford to grow corn in the province of Ontario at that price. Give us the same 15 cents per bushel duty that the Americans impose upon our corn, guarantee to our farmers that they will get from 45 to 50 cents per bushel and I state here that in the Essexes, the Middlesexes, the Lambtons, and other corn-growing districts we can produce and will produce every solitary bushel of corn that the Dominion of Canada requires. We imported 15,000,000 bushels of corn in the last two years; guarantee

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to our farmers a price of 50 cents a bushel which they should have and we will grow 25,000,000 bushels if necessary. There is no farmer who is going to plant forty-five acres, sixty acres, or seventy acres of corn, as a great many farmers can do in my district, knowing that he may be compelled to sell it at from 25 cents to 30 cents per bushel. It is said by some people that we should feed the corn to the cattle. Well, while there are a number of farmers in my district who could feed from twenty-five to thirty acres of corn, there are hundreds of farmers who have good corn soil and who could grow corn to sell, but who have not the money to buy stock in order to feed it. That is one of the reasons why these corn producers there should be protected, and I trust and hope that the government will see fit to give to these farmers the privileges to which they are entitled. One other argument upon the corn question before leaving the subject. The present government expect our farmers to grow corn in competition with free corn from the United States. If they expect them to do that they should give them every advantage possible in order to enable them to grow corn more cheaply than they are now in a position to do. Nearly all of the corn machinery that has been manufactured up to a short time ago has been manufactured on the other side of the line and the government, while expecting our farmers to successfully grow corn in competition with free corn, put a duty of 35 per cent on every solitary bit of corn machinery that they bring into this country.

Now, I propose to direct the attention of hon. members of the House for a few moments to the wool question.

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT. How does it come that you get such a small price for your corn where you are living? The hon. gentleman stated that corn was worth only 25c. cents. To-day I see this quotation from the 'Mail and Empire' from Chatham: No. 2, yellow American corn, 64 cents.

Mr. CLEMENTS. I am sure that my hon. friend (Mr. A. A. Wright), whom I greatly regard, has shown a great deal of brightness in asking me that question and I must congratulate him upon having done so. I made the statement that two years ago the farmers in my district were compelled to sell their corn at from 25 to 30 cents a bushel. I make that statement now knowing whereof I speak and if the hon. gentleman still thinks that the question is one capable of dispute I shall be very glad to show him the price that the farmers are compelled to accept at the time to which I have referred. At the present time the corn crop is almost exhausted and that may account for the advance in price. But, I was giving the figure that they were compelled to take while free corn was coming into this country and which they will be