

I concur in that—

—but it regrets that in the measure under consideration duties are imposed which must be oppressive upon the people.

Are they oppressive upon the people? That is the question we want to ask? Is my right hon. leader correct in putting that statement before the people?

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. LOGGIE: Well, let us see.

Mr. GRAHAM: They decide the case before they hear the evidence.

Mr. LOGGIE: In 1908 the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) deplored the taking of money from the pockets of the people, money that he said was their capital. We had raised the amount of taxation per capita from \$5.50 in 1896 to about \$11. As a matter of fact, the rate of taxation in 1910 was about \$11. Under the present tariff the per capita tax was, in 1914, \$15, approximately. What does that mean to the average family of five people? It means that the present tax per annum is no less than \$75. The Minister of Trade and Commerce bewailed the taking of a very much less sum out of the pockets of the people. I want to show the House how this new tax works out. I said that the tax as it exists to-day amounts to \$75 per family. To that you add this 5 per cent and this 7½ per cent respectively—I do not mean together—and you have the result that you are adding about one-third to the taxation of the people by this new Budget. In 1914 the rate of duty collected on goods imported into Canada was 15.648 per cent, including all goods dutiable and free. One hon. gentleman the other night calculated what the increased rate would be, that is to say, the horizontal rate all round, and I think he said that it would be 6.7 per cent, or something like 6¾ per cent. To make the calculation easier I have assumed that 5 per cent on a certain amount and 7½ per cent upon another certain amount, taken together, will be about 6 per cent. That means that you are increasing the duty—not the rate of duty on the original invoice—but the duty itself by 33½ per cent, and you are making the cost of living go up by \$20 per capita or equal to \$100 per family, by this increased taxation that you propose to levy upon the people.

But that is not all that it is costing the people of Canada. If that were all I do not know that it would be so very serious. All the goods that are consumed pay this

extra duty. Only about 25 per cent of the goods that are consumed in Canada are imported; the other 75 per cent are made in Canada. Do the consumers pay an equal advance on the goods made in Canada? Can I demonstrate that they do? Without demonstrating that I have shown that taxation is increased by 33½ per cent under this proposition, and when I tell you that the increased tax must be added to the other 75 per cent of the goods consumed you will agree with me that the proposition of the Government is most burdensome to the people.

Let me present that part of my plea to the House. For a good many years barbed wire and spring wire came into this country free. Before the 12th February the price that was ruling in Pittsburg was about \$2 per 100 lbs. That was the base 9 p.m. price, and what is meant by the base price is the price of barbed wire and not of plain spring wire. Since this Budget has come down the price of barbed and spring wire has been advanced by the Canadian manufacturers 7½ per cent, or 15 cents per 100 lbs. During the year 1914 the importation of barbed wire amounted to 23,000,000 pounds, valued at \$504,000, while the importation of plain spring wire amounted to 71,000,000 pounds, valued at \$1,308,000 in round figures. This wire, let me repeat, has in the past come into Canada free. The 7½ per cent duty amounts to \$126,000. If next year we import the same quantity of barbed and plain wire the farmers will pay to the Treasury \$126,000. That is not all. If that were all I do not think I would have so much to say. The statistics are not available as to the exact quantity of home-made wire that is consumed in Canada. I have estimated, on the best information that I could get, that two-thirds of the wire consumed in Canada is made by the wire mills in Canada, and that one-third of the amount used is imported.

The importations are largely in the western provinces. I suppose transportation is the cause of that. The people in my district who use this wire use only the domestic article. I know nothing about the importations, but I know that the increased duty has enabled the manufacturers to say that the price has gone up by the amount of the increase in the duty. Therefore the farmers of Canada will be taxed for barbed wire and spring wire \$253,000, which will go into the pockets of the manufacturers, besides \$126,-