

ties they pay. I am glad that the thin edge of the wedge has been introduced, absolutely abolishing specific duties, and I hope that the Government will keep on on that line until every item and vestige of specific duties is eventually wiped out. The free list has been increased by adding corn and binding twine, which is also a step in the right direction. The restrictions surrounding the sale of coal oil are also going to be removed, and facilities are to be offered for the purpose of distributing it without surrounding it with those restrictions to which it has heretofore been subjected. Then fence wire will also be in the free list, and this, no doubt, will be of great advantage to our farmers in the North-west, and to our farmers in other parts of the Dominion. It will undoubtedly be a decided advantage. Then, again, we are enjoying a very large and desirable development in our mineral wealth, and mining machinery to be used for that purpose, is to be admitted in order to facilitate the development of our mineral resources. Then we are to have cheaper iron. I am sure there is not a user of iron in Canada, including all our farmers, but will appreciate the reduction that has been made on iron. That is a desirable move, and I hope the Government will move still further in the same direction. The question of the bounty on iron I shall not refer to, as I have already sufficiently done so. Then, again, the taxation is increased on tobacco, spirits and cigarettes. I do not think there is an individual in this country, unless those who are personally interested in these articles, who will challenge the prudence of the Government in having added to the taxation under these heads, thus bringing a large amount into the Dominion treasury from the increased taxation on these items. Now, Sir, in my humble opinion, the important feature in connection with this whole tariff is the offer, and the inducement, and the advantage, held out to the mother country in the direction of receiving her goods at a lower rate than we will receive the goods of other nations. I think that move will bring in a new era. I believe, Sir, that from the present time the future of Canada is assured. I believe that on the morning of the 24th of June a new condition of things dawned upon this Dominion. The sun rose that day on a condition of things that I believe will eventually secure that measure of prosperity that is so necessary to the future development of this country. I believe that wealth and population will increase, I believe that our farmers will take courage and be in better heart; I believe that our North-west will fill up rapidly with a thriving, active and industrious population. I believe that our mining interests will develop rapidly; I believe that an impetus will be given to a great many industries throughout our Dominion: I believe that under the management, the prudent management, the careful

Mr. McMULLEN.

management, the statesmanlike management of the hon. gentlemen who now occupy the Treasury benches, a brighter era has opened for Canada. I believe that the people in Canada are realizing that they are beginning to cultivate confidence, they are beginning to act more hopefully. They believe that upright men now occupy the Treasury benches of this Dominion, who are endeavouring to conduct its affairs honestly. I am not for a moment intimating that Conservatives as a whole are dishonest; I am glad to say that there are honourable, upright and patriotic men, no doubt, in the Conservative ranks, just as there are in ours. But I must say this, that if they had rid their skirts of men who were dishonest, of men who showed a disposition to do what was wrong; if they had purged themselves of those men who were willing to live by dishonesty, and those men that lent their countenance to dishonesty and winked at such transactions as the Curran Bridge, the Tay Canal, the Langevin Block, the graving dock scandal—if they had done that their chances with the people of this country on the 23rd of June last, would have been much better than they were. Now, the hon. ex-Finance Minister has evidently sat in his seat with a great deal of uneasiness since this House met. He feels, no doubt along with others, that he is in the cold shades of Opposition. Well, hon. gentlemen on that side of the House had better make up their minds that the country is going to ask them to stay where they are for a considerable time. I think the evidence afforded by several constituencies recently clearly show that the country is going to give a fair and impartial trial to the present Government, it is going to give them a fair opportunity of handling the affairs of this country. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that so far as I am personally concerned, I shall support this Government just as long as they do what is right; but I will say this to them, that if they allow themselves to be dragged into the mire of disgrace by Curran Bridges, by Tay Canals, by Langevin Blocks, and such things, I shall claim the right to separate from this Government, or from any other Government that is found guilty of those things. If hon. gentlemen opposite had taken that course, their prospects before the people of this country would have been much better on the 23rd of June last than they were in fact. I said the ex-Finance Minister did not appear to be comfortable in his seat. Well, I earnestly hope that he will peaceably and submissively accept the decision of the people of this Dominion, and I hope that he will endeavour prudently and properly to discharge his duty as one of the prominent leaders of the Opposition for a number of years to come—I do not know how long. But let me say this, I believe that if the Hon. Wilfred Laurier continues to conduct the affairs of