

In my opinion, the main causes of all the trouble in this matter are :

1st. The extortionate prices stipulated for labour in Mr. St. Louis' contract, and, 2nd, the almost unlimited number of men on the said works, so numerous that they were in one another's way, and Mr. St. Louis cannot be held criminally responsible for these causes.

And the judge ruled that St. Louis had only worked up to the contract of the Government, and declined to order him to pay back the money. I ask if you can parallel that record in Ontario, or any other province of this Dominion under the administration of the Liberal party ?

But hon. gentlemen opposite have undertaken to show that the policy of the Opposition is unfavourable to the farmer. They have told us that protection has been a blessing to the farmer. I wish to glance at that statement for a moment. You remember, Sir, that when the National Policy was inaugurated, we were told that it was to create a home market which would consume our farm products raised at home. Hon. gentlemen opposite declared that to be the best market, and they said further that, in consequence of the stimulus afforded by the National Policy our manufacturers would be able to manufacture what we wanted at home. In short, we were to put an end to our foreign trade by consuming our farm products at home. The enormous population of operatives, which the National Policy was to place in our midst, would consume our farm products, and then we would be under no necessity to import from abroad because we would make everything at home. What are the facts ? Last year we exported nearly \$50,000,000 worth of farm products after we had fed all the operatives which the National Policy had brought into Canada. I ask you, Sir, as a business man, how long it will be before, at the present rate, we will have sufficient consuming population established in the country to overtake the production of our farmers, even supposing our farmers stood still and did not increase their production at all ? What are the facts with respect to the protective policy as it affects the farmer ? These hon. gentlemen talk to us about taking off the duties and allowing the Canadian market to be flooded with American agricultural products. Do these hon. gentlemen know that to-day beef is being shipped from Toronto to the market of Buffalo to meet the wants of the people on that side of the river ? People do not ship products into a lower market from a higher and pay a heavy duty besides. All winter long the hog market, about which they make much fuss, has been higher in Buffalo, has been higher even in Chicago, than it has been in Toronto. And yet these hon. gentlemen, in the face of these facts, will maintain that the National Policy protects the farmer. Sir, I was amused when the hon. member for East Hastings

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth).

(Mr. Northrup) made that beautiful statement of his, with respect to how the National Policy operated to protect the farmers of Canada. He said :

One way is by grinding down the wages of employees and the profits of capitalists, so that we can produce more cheaply in this country than any other country in the world ; that is the way of hon. gentlemen opposite. Another way is to put up a tariff which will make outsiders who wish to come into this market, pay something for the privilege ; that is the Conservative way--the way in which we propose to keep our market for our own people.

Sir, how do they tax those who wish to obtain access to our markets, so far as the farmer is concerned, when this is the position of affairs to-day ? What is the use of telling us that there is protection in it for the farmers ? Why, Sir, the fact is that these hon. gentlemen are dealing with a condition of things that, if it ever existed under the National Policy, existed long ago, and the fact is that the hon. gentleman has got far behind the times and is entirely astray from the facts as they apply to us to-day. So far as the farmers of to-day are concerned, the effect is all in the other direction. Here is what a farmer says with respect to the influence of the National Policy upon one industry, that is the butter and cheese industry. During the last session of the Ontario Parliament, Mr. MacPherson, of Glengarry, spoke thus :

A careful study of the expenditure and returns of the business shows that the price of machinery and other modern appliances for butter-making has been increased by the Federal tariff sufficiently to raise the cost of producing butter from 1 to 2 cents per pound, and ventured the opinion, that, with improved methods and reduced taxation, butter in a few years could be produced in Ontario at from 8 to 10 cents per pound.

Did he believe that the National Policy was good for the farmer ? Did he believe that the protection that was afforded to them was any benefit to them ? Certainly not ; and every intelligent farmer will share his opinion. The fact stands out fair and plain that in the year 1894 nearly \$50,000,000 of a surplus had to be shipped out of Canada after providing for the wants of our own population.

But they tell us that the price of wheat has gone up to-day. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has gone up ; but what are the circumstances under which it has gone up ? Sir, I supposed that when we developed our railway system in the North-west and gave sixty-two and a half millions of Canada's hard coin to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway, we should have had a great highway that would have brought our western produce down within our own borders and brought it to our own seaboard, shipping it entirely over Canadian territory. But what are the facts ? Every one knows that the bulk of the wheat of the North-west went