

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I bow to the ruling of the Chair. That is all that it is necessary to say on the subject.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Then I must ask the member sitting behind him who said that the statement of the member for East Lambton was true, I must ask him also to accept my denial.

Mr. SPROULE. The First Minister stated at the beginning of the session that the Waterways agreement was ratified.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) who is a friend of mine will assist me.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood that the hon. member was through.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Then I ask your protection, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER. I did not hear any other hon. gentleman except the hon. member for Lambton make the statement complained of.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Then that hon. gentleman has heard what I have said, and if he is manly he will get up and acknowledge that the insinuations he cast upon me, in my hearing, were unfounded, and he will withdraw them. If he does less than that I say he is not fit to sit in this House and associate with gentlemen.

Mr. HERRON. I hope the hon. gentleman does not allude to anything I said.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. No, I mean the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Schaffner).

Mr. HERRON. I wish to say a few words on the resolution now before the House. Might I suggest to the Minister of Finance, now that he has capitulated to the United States government, and while these tariff arrangements are under consideration, that this would be a splendid opportunity for him to do something for the western farmers. For many years we have been promised better commercial relations in regard to farm machinery, to wheat and some other farm products. I think it would be a much greater benefit to this country to put binders on the free list than feathers or perfumery, and things like that of which we have heard to-night. I think this would have been a grand opportunity for the government to fulfil some of the pledges they made years ago to the farmers of the Northwest. We know that prior to 1896 the Prime Minister and his followers made pledges that if they were in power they would put farm implements on the free list. I do not know whether the Prime Minister himself made that statement emphatically, but many of his followers who afterwards became ministers did make it. I think this would have been a fitting opportunity to insist upon reciprocity in agricultural implements between the two coun-

Mr. SPEAKER.

tries as well as in wheat and other grains. The hon. member for Moosejaw (Mr. Knowles) has had a resolution on the order paper asking for lower duties on farm implements for the benefit of the farmers. His resolution was put on the order paper at the beginning of the session. It has worked from the bottom to the top of the order paper and from the top down to the bottom again. Now we are starting at the top and I believe it will fall through. It is evident that the hon. member has no intention of bringing this before the House this session. I think it is time we should try to do something for the farmers of the west. This resolution reads as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the government should at an early date take into serious consideration the necessity for the reduction of the tariff duties of Canada—

Mr. SPEAKER. It is against the rule of the House to discuss anything on the order paper.

Mr. HERRON. I beg your pardon. I have said pretty nearly all I wish to say on this subject at the present time, any way and I am sorry that the Finance Minister has not been able to do something in the interests of the farmers in negotiating this treaty.

Mr. SPROULE. The right hon. the Prime Minister referred to the fact that the international waterways convention was either ratified or about to be ratified and I would ask if there is any additional correspondence upon this subject, that he would be good enough to lay it on the table at the earliest opportunity so that it may be seen by the members of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) evidently did not catch my remarks. I said that the correspondence would be brought down either on Friday or Monday.

Mr. J. D. REID. I just want to say a few words upon this matter. The fact that these negotiations have been going on amused me very much. I remember that prior to 1896 the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and his associates stated that when they got into power they would go to Washington and get a treaty; in fact, we would have free trade between the two countries. Shortly after they came into power in 1896 the Prime Minister did go to Washington and he knows the reception he got there. He could not do anything.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The reception was all right.

Mr. J. D. REID. You could not get anything at all, and you came back and