

will reap the benefit thereof, because high freight rates, is one of the great hardships we labour under. Taking the tariff as a whole, I find that it is very satisfactory, and it has the further consolation for us, that it shows the Government are proceeding in the right direction. We take this new tariff as an instalment of better things to come, and I am satisfied that it is the intention of the Government to go further in the desired direction. When the people of the west read the speeches of the leader of the Opposition, and of his supporters who have addressed the House, they will be satisfied to leave the control of the affairs of Canada in the hands of the present Government. We in the west have practically only eighteen years of existence, and nearly all that time we have been governed by the Conservative party. We have had a trial of their legislation, and we have found to our cost that it was not directed towards enabling our farmers to prosper. It was only a year or two ago, when public opinion got so strong, that they were compelled at last to lop off the mouldering branches of the National Policy.

Before that time we were tied up with specific duties, some of which were very hard to bear. They all seemed to be made in the interest of the rich man, and none in the interest of the poor man.

The present Government have also taken a step in the right direction in the interests of the agriculturists of this country by having a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture. That gentleman has grappled with the situation successfully, and we in the west have every confidence in him. He has assisted us by establishing creameries, which are a great boon to the people of the west; and if he established more of those creameries, there would be less grumbling on the part of the people there.

We are not unreasonable, but we hope that the Government will see their way in the near future to assist in building the Hudson Bay Railway, to which the people of Manitoba and the North-west look for the salvation of that country. We believe that nature created the great bay as a highway to the markets of the world, as an outlet for the produce of those great and fertile plains, stretching from Winnipeg to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. I have no doubt that the time is not far distant when the prejudice that exists in the east against that great railroad will be at an end, and it will be built. Then we in the North-west shall have our importations brought in at much lower rates than the people of Ontario, and no more will be heard in that country of high freight rates or of the tariff.

Mr. KENDRY. Mr. Speaker, the hon gentleman who has just sat down (Mr. Davis, Saskatchewan), like a great many of those who come from the North-west Territories, spoke wholly in the interest of the

Mr. DAVIS (Saskatchewan).

particular locality from which he comes. In this country, where our interests are so diversified, we should legislate in the best interests of all parts of the country. In reference to the tariff, the industries of this country have been built up since 1878 largely by the National Policy. I defy hon. gentlemen opposite to say that they have not. The best evidence we have of that fact is that the gentlemen now on the Treasury benches have adopted that policy, or at least ninety per cent of it. Now, I propose to-night to speak in regard to the effect of the tariff upon the manufacturing industries of this country. I want to say to hon. gentlemen opposite, especially the Finance Minister, that while ninety per cent of their tariff is that of the National Policy, the remaining 10 per cent will close a large number of the mills and manufacturing establishments of this country. These gentlemen, especially those from the North-west, have been for years going from one end of this country to the other, condemning every part of the National Policy; and yet their policy of to-day is the same or nearly the same; and these gentlemen from the North-west now say that this policy will suit that country. When these gentlemen go back to their constituents again, and tell them that the policy which they used to grumble about now suits the North-west; I am certain that they will not be again returned to this House. Now, I want to deal with some of the figures in the tariff of this Government. They have adopted specific duties in about six-tenths of it, and in the other four-tenths they have taken the specific duties off. I make the assertion that the Government will not collect an honest duty by the ad valorem system. In the United States, under the Cleveland Administration, the tariff was largely ad valorem, and they were unable to collect the duties; and I call the attention of the Finance Minister to-night to the fact that his policy will have the effect of striking at one of the largest industries of this country, in which \$15,000,000 is invested and over 15,000 hands are employed. It is claimed that the duties have been lowered on the cheaper kind of goods in the interest of the poor man; but I say that the goods that will largely come to this country under the new tariff will be shoddy goods from England, which we want to keep out. Next year you will find that this country will be flooded with these shoddy goods. What I think the Government should have done would have been to increase the duty on those lines of goods which the rich man wears, so as to tax the rich man as well as the poor man and to give the mills of this country some protection. As a result of lowering the duties on cheaper goods, the wool grown in this country will not be used. I make the assertion that in a few months the wool of this country will be three or four cents a pound lower than it is to-day, and that will