

fnitum, giving item after item in which the National Policy discriminates against the poor and in favour of the rich man. Therefore it is a policy not adapted to this country. But, Sir, passing on, I am opposed to the National Policy on the ground that it increases the prices of the prime necessities of the Canadian people, which I can prove, and I have the figures here to prove it. I have quotations of prices which I have obtained from independent parties who did not know for what purpose I wanted to use them. I got a quotation from the city of Detroit and one from the town of Windsor on the same day, on the 5th of December last, showing the price in the two places of a clothes-wringer, an article very largely used among the poor people of this country to save manual labour; and the article which was \$3.75 in Windsor was selling on the same day in Detroit for \$2.50, a difference of \$1.25 on this single article of general utility; and if you estimate the number of wringers used in this country at 200,000, you have \$250,000 that the users of clothes-wringers in this country pay more than a similar number pay in the American Union. Now take the article of solid steel spades. I have a quotation from Jones, of Gananoque, in December, and I have an independent quotation from Busy, Binns & Co., of Pittsburg, on the same day. According to the quotation from Gananoque, spades are sold there for \$10.65 to the retailer per dozen, and according to the quotation from Pittsburg they are sold in that city at \$7.80 per dozen to the retailer. Add 30 per cent. for the profit of the retailer, and a spade sells in this country for \$1.16 which, with the same profit to the retailer, sells in the American Union for 85 cents, or a difference of 31 cents in favour of the American article. When we consider the number of steel spades used in this country upon our public works and canals and by every farmer in the community, we will find that no less than one million are used, which, multiplied by 31 cents, makes no less than \$310,000 which our people pay for solid steel spades more than the same number of people pay for for a like number of these implements in the United States. Yet, in the face of those facts, we are told that prices have not increased under the National Policy. Again, take the article of coal oil. I have independent quotations of that, too. I have quotations from Canada in the month of January, showing that coal oil sold in this country, No. 1 white Canadian oil, to the retailer for 13½ cents per imperial gallon; and I have a quotation from the United States, showing that, at the same date, a better article was sold there at 7½ cents per wine gallon. Add one-fifth, being the difference between the two measures, and you have 9 cents for the imperial gallon in the United States, as against 13½ cents in Canada. Give the retailer 50 per cent. profit, and you can obtain in the American market a much better oil at 13½ cents than that for which you have to pay 20 cents in Canada. We consume no less than 20,000,000 gallons of oil per year. Multiplying that by 6½ cents, and you have no less than \$1,300,000 which the people of this country pay more for an inferior article of coal oil than the same number of people in the United States pay for a superior article. Yet we are told by those hon. gentlemen who give us learned essays on protection, without coming down to solid facts, that the National Policy lowers prices. But that is not all. Take the article of barb wire, which

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

is manufactured in this country and in the United States. On the 5th of December I had a quotation from the town of Windsor, giving the price of barb wire at retail, at \$4.80 per hundred pounds, and I have also a quotation from the city of Detroit on the same date, a city only a quarter of a mile across the river, showing the price there to be \$3.30 per hundred pounds. What made the difference? It was the \$1.50 per hundred pounds of duty placed upon it by the Canadian Government. Let me give you the experience of two farmers in connection with barb wire, which will show the great difference between living on this side and the other side of the line—the great difference between having free trade and a protective policy. Farmer A left his house, in the neighbourhood of Windsor, on the 5th of December, 1890. He wanted to buy 500 pounds of wire to build a fence 80 rods long. He had no ready money, so he put 50 bushels of barley into his waggon and went to the market. He sold his barley at the market price in the town of Windsor, on the 5th of December, at 50 cents per bushel, realizing \$25. He went then to a hardware store and bought the 500 pounds of wire he required, and for which he had to pay \$4.80 per hundred pounds, making \$24, and leaving him \$1 to pay his expenses and take him home. That was his experience. Farmer B, on the same day, required 500 pounds of barb wire for the same purpose, and on the same day left his farm in the vicinity of Detroit with 50 bushels of barley, as he had no ready cash. That 50 bushels he sold in the market at Detroit at 80 cents per bushel, or \$40, and he then went to a hardware store and bought his 500 pounds of wire at \$3.30 per hundred pounds, making \$16.50 for the wire, and leaving him with a balance of \$23.50 in pocket. He purchased a suit of clothes for himself at \$12, bought stuff for a dress for his wife at \$5, bought 40 pounds of sugar at 5 cents per pound, 20 pounds of rice at 5 cents per pound, 2 pounds of tea at 50 cents per pound, and 3 pairs of shoes at 50 cents per pair, and he still had \$1 left to pay his expenses. There is a practical fact. How did that come to be known? Farmer A and Farmer B happened to be brothers, and they corresponded, and each gave the other his experience. I would ask the hon. member for Albert (Mr. Weldon) who he thinks now, in view of these facts, became the "nomad." I would ask the hon. gentleman which of those men took up stakes and moved westward. Was it the Canadian farmer or the Michigan farmer? I need hardly say it was the Canadian farmer who pulled up his stakes and went to the country where he could sell at the highest price and buy at the lowest. Take the article of salt. The hon. Finance Minister proposes to reduce the duty on salt. There has been a combination among the salt men, not from any dishonest motives, let me tell you, Sir, for I know every one of them, but with the motive of saving their own property and investments. Now, how does the National Policy destroy the salt interests? I come from a county which is the centre of the salt interest. The Government have two policies with regard to salt—a free trade policy in the east and a restrictive policy in the west. The manufacturers of Ontario are prevented sending salt to the American market on account of the duties imposed by the United States, and are prevented sending their salt to the Eastern Provinces on account of the free trade