

The hon. gentleman opposite says, give the manufacturers an opportunity, let them get on their feet and they will compete against the Americans. They have been on their feet for eighteen years, and they are not prepared to compete to-day. Now, I say, give the consumer a chance, let him get on his feet and see how he will stand. If you are going to cut at all, cut it down to 50 cents. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) said that nails are higher in the United States than they are in Canada. Now, surely that is not so.

Mr. TAYLOR. By retail to the farmer?

Mr. MCGREGOR. There is a difference between sense and nonsense. We are supposed to talk sense when we come here, and not nonsense.

Mr. TAYLOR. I took a deputation of five farmers through the United States some three years ago to compare prices, and I think my hon. friend has seen the report that I made. If my hon. friend from Essex and my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) will come home with me on Saturday, I will take them over the river and I will pay their expenses in case my statement is not true; if it is, they will pay the expenses and make a contribution for the benefit of the poor.

Mr. McMULLEN. I visited the United States last August and I found that the price of nails in Kansas City, to the consumers, is one cent a pound less than they are sold in Canada.

Mr. OLIVER. The member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has told us that finished nails are sold cheaper in Pittsburg than the plain wire is; then he tells us the next minute that finished nails are dearer in the United States than they are here; and that after the wire is brought into Canada and made into nails by Canadian labour, earning higher wages than the labour of the United States.

Mr. FOSTER. That is all right.

Mr. OLIVER. It may be, but it does not sound all right to me.

Mr. FOSTER. One is the wholesale price and the other is the retail price.

Mr. OLIVER. As the retail price is necessarily based on the wholesale price, I may be forgiven by saying that I think the expression of the hon. member for Essex fills the Bill.

Mr. TAYLOR. I said that Pittsburg quotation was for exporting. In Pittsburg they will give quotations for export to Canada at a lower rate than they will quote the rods.

Mr. CRAIG. I think the hon. member for Essex (Mr. McGregor) takes an entirely wrong view of business affairs when he is constantly talking about giving the con-

sumer a chance. Now, I say that we are all consumers, the manufacturers are consumers. I do not know who he is talking about when he talks about consumers. I suppose the hon. gentleman means the farmers. We desire to give them a chance by giving them some population to whom to sell their produce. We do not want the factories closed. Take any farmer and he will pay for a farm a larger price if it is in the vicinity of a manufacturing town than if it is in the vicinity of a town that has no manufactures. The farmers use common-sense, and the hon. member should use common-sense also. There is a false idea prevailing in regard to the farmers. I lay down the proposition that almost everything is too cheap at the present time. Take clothing, boots and shoes—they are examples. If everything was somewhat dearer it would be better for the country.

An hon. MEMBER. You think that would increase the price of farm produce?

Mr. CRAIG. I hold that the prices of farm produce would increase. I can point to one town which furnishes an example, and that is Peterborough. There is a splendid market there, and a great many of the farmers from my riding go there twice a week with their produce.

Mr. MCGREGOR. The farmers of Essex cannot go there.

Mr. CRAIG. I am giving Peterborough as an illustration. If the hon. gentleman cannot understand it, other members will, no doubt. Farmers living in the neighbourhood of Peterborough fully appreciate the manufacturing industries there, because they have a first-class market for their produce. Those farmers do not require to ship their butter or eggs by cold storage because they have a market at their doors. I believe the Government would be wise if they accepted the advice of the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) and imposed a duty of three-quarters of a cent instead of three-fifths of a cent, if manufacturers consider it will make all the difference in regard to the prosperity of this industry. I do not believe the farmers are so selfish as they are represented to be, and in my opinion they would not object to this slight increase of duty if thereby the factories were kept employed instead of the employees being thrown out of work and compelled to go to the United States.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I would urge the Government to put wire nails on the free list. If there was any article that was cursed as regards the duty placed on it in the North-west, it was wire nails. On every platform throughout Manitoba and the North-west this duty was denounced. I should like to see this article placed on the free list, and not only so, but that a bounty should be given to the farmers to recoup

Mr. MCGREGOR.