

gentlemen opposite that if you go to Cornwall to-day you do not hear any voice of inquiry as to whether the Government are going to pass a Franchise Act, as to what amount is to be spent on public works, but the one and sole inquiry is, when will there be something definite and decisive known on the tariff which so vitally affects the cotton industry in which we are so generally greatly interested? So hon. gentlemen opposite to-day should be appealed to by hon. members on this side of the House, should be appealed to honestly and fairly as we have appealed to them in the past, and asked to allow the vast cotton industry, which has been threatened, and which has been affected by the threats which hon. gentlemen have made, to stand as in the past, and give to Canada what it requires, large manufacturing interests, whether they may be in Cornwall or in any other part of the Dominion.

But there is another industry which hon. gentlemen have threatened. Throughout Ontario, I care not where the party platform was put forward, and also on the floor of this House, there was the plea made that the agricultural implement industry was one of the vilest combines that ever existed in any country. What did hon. gentlemen promise? The other evening the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) quoted utterances made by the First Minister here and there, and what were his statements relative to the iron and coal industries? He pointed out that other articles entered into this industry, and said that we are unable to reduce the price of the manufactured articles by reason of the fact that the raw material is highly taxed, and if we come into power, by sweeping away the duties on raw material, we will be able to give the manufacturers cheaper raw materials and thus the price of the manufactured article will be reduced. How is that promise to be kept? Hon. gentlemen opposite have already announced that the coal industry of Nova Scotia is not to be affected; and manufacturers are told in the same breath that instead of obtaining free coal, their coal imported from the United States must be taxed as in the past. Not only is the First Minister responsible for those statements, but every prominent member of the Cabinet is responsible, for they have at all times made those same statements. I recollect well the vigorous language used by the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies) on one occasion, when rising in the might of his energy to denounce protection, not only did he declare it a system to be disapproved of, but he said that it was accursed by God and man. What is the hon. gentleman proposing to do to-day? He was one of those who was pleading for cheap farm implements for the farmers of western Ontario, and he was going to bring that result about by reducing the duties on coal and iron, and he

Mr. BENNETT.

declared that when they had been reduced the farmers would get the benefit; but to-day the farmers must be told, inferentially, that no favours are to be accorded to them. Well, I could go on and discuss one item and another in the tariff which hon. gentlemen opposite have from time to time assailed, and which to-day they are at issue upon, and so we must wait in expectancy to hear what announcements will be made. But if the protected industries of this country are injuriously affected by the statements made from time to time, the manufacturers may at least obtain a little consolation from the fact that in the Estimates brought down the Finance Minister has provided for equally as large a revenue as was provided in the past year. And not only so, but they have provided for even more, because while to-day their proposed expenditure for the next year is almost on a par with the expenditure of last year, this must not be lost sight of, that the Finance Minister has not brought down what no doubt will be bulky, heavy and vast Supplementary Estimates, which are yet to come. From that fact the industries of the country may take hope and courage, and may believe that hon. gentlemen opposite are yet going to keep up the tariff that has existed in the past, and which I hope will be continued in the years that are to come. Hon. gentlemen opposite have said that the tariff must be and will be simply a tariff for revenue. All I have to say in that regard is this: If they propose to follow out a tariff revenue policy on the line of the English tariff, then recourse must be had, not to a tariff such as exists here to-day, but to direct imposition of taxes on certain articles such as are imposed in England, on coffee, tea, and other articles I might mention. But while the manufacturers and protected industries of Canada are held like Mahommed's coffin between the sky and the earth, while they are held in doubt as to what is to be done respecting them, hon. gentlemen opposite come to the rescue with the announcement made by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) this afternoon, that even on such a trivial matter as the Franchise Bill they are not in accord and are not all of one sentiment. This afternoon that hon. gentleman in his position as one of the Liberal Nestors dealt with some of the refractory members and told them that while they might not all agree on certain matters, they should forget the past and endeavour to come in line on one basis. I ask the hon. member for North Norfolk, is he prepared to come in on this tariff Bill that the Government may bring down? If they are prepared to bring down a tariff Bill practically in agreement with the tariff which has existed for eighteen years, and it is accepted by the hon. gentleman, he must greatly belie his past record. He has not been one of those advocates of free