

the prophecy Sir Charles Tupper made in this House, that, if the iron and steel duties which he proposed were adopted, an industry would be created in this country which would employ 20,000 hands, making with their families an increase of 100,000 in the population in a short time. Sir, that prediction is very far from having been fulfilled. As I said before, the interest of the farmers received very little attention, because they do not come here and fill the lobbies as do the manufacturers. Some of the members of this House seem to be of the opinion that the tillers of the soil are of very little account. I will read to you the opinion on that subject of an hon. gentleman who spoke in this House last session :

Some of the farmers in the country seem to think that they are going to receive great benefits from the Wilson Bill, if its various provisions are crystallized into law. I have my doubts about that. I admit that it might be a good thing for this country to have the 5 cents duty taken off eggs which the farmers send into the United States ; it might be a good thing for this country, perhaps, if the duty on potatoes were brought down from 25 to 15 cents a bushel ; I admit that it might be a good thing for our farmers if the duty should be lowered on various other articles that they are able to export into the United States. But the events of the last few years have proved one thing conclusively, to my mind, and that is that it is not for the ultimate good of the Canadian farmer that the raw products of his farm should go freely into the United States market. The farmer is a peculiar being. With him sufficient unto the day are the evils thereof. Far be it from me to say anything derogatory to their intelligence, but I say that the farmer of this country, if he can raise enough from day to day to keep him, is generally satisfied.

It is one of the finest traits, it is one of the finest incidents of agricultural life, that a man is satisfied with little ; it is one of the finest features of agricultural life, that the man who lives on a farm, and digs his living out of the soil, is satisfied with what the soil will give him. He is not avaricious, he does not want the world and all its belongings—like some hon. gentlemen whom I see on the Opposition side of this House.

I suppose the extract voices the opinion of a large number of members. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to think that by making certain statements they will be able to induce the farmers to vote for them when the election comes around. We know that the farmers have been accustomed to follow the old rut in politics, and they have been accustomed to say : I do not want any change, my relations voted that way, I have voted that way, and I will continue to do so. I am glad to know, however, that they are beginning to think and to judge for themselves. They will not be content always to remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. They have a stake in this country ; their farms are mortgaged for the large debt of the country, and they have an interest in the good government of the country. I think it would be well if they read at first hand everything that is said and done in this House, and paid no attention to what is said

by the party newspapers : if they did this for a short time we would see a great change take place in the opinion of the agricultural class. Now, there was a quotation made the other evening by an hon. member, which I beg leave to quote again, as it is short. I wish to compare it with another statement, showing the difference between Great Britain and the United States in their respective trade policies. Now, last session the Minister of Justice used the following language :—

Who will say for one moment that the hostile tariffs surrounding that country in every quarter of the globe have not been successful in forcing her out, step by step, from the position of vantage which she once held in the various markets of the world ? What is the whole policy of the motherland to-day ? Driven from the civilized markets of the world, steadily, and every year finding their output to those markets decreasing, they spend millions on their navy and millions on their army, to force their wares and their goods and their merchandise into the uncivilized markets of the world, which they are endeavouring to occupy, to settle, and to control, driven there by the deadly effect upon them of the tremendous competition coming from the protectionist nations in the rest of the world.

The reason I quote that is that I may compare it with another statement which I find in the New York "Herald," as follows :—

NEW YORK "HERALD."

Old England, by means of her free trade policy, is now enabled to import annually 1,700,000,000 pounds of cottons (mostly from the United States), out of which she manufactures yarns and piece-goods of the value of \$500,000,000. Of this total production of cotton goods she exports and sells annually in foreign markets an amount valued at about \$325,000,000. Nothing but our "protective" tariffs prevented the United States from reaping the vast profits which our free trade rival reaps from the manufacture of American cotton. Of course, we can never hope to do this while our "protective" system is retained. The very means we have adopted to shut out foreign manufactures from our markets have necessarily shut us out of the markets of the world. We can never sell freely to other countries from whom we refuse to buy freely.

That is the difference, that is the true reason of Great Britain's greatness, that is what gives Great Britain control of the markets of the world. It is by means of her trade policy that she has been able to bring most of the nations of the earth into tribute, by loaning them large sums of money upon which she receives interest from them. It is estimated that the interest which Great Britain receives from other countries upon money she has loaned them, amounts to no less a sum than £50,000,000, or \$250,000,000 annually. Where is the country that can compete with Great Britain who receives that amount of money yearly taken from the earnings of the labour of other countries ? She has reached her present proud position by pursuing a free trade policy, by which she is enabled to trade