

on coal oil, and I must confess that coal oil is sold at very high rates to the people in our western country. We have to pay 31½ cents a gallon at wholesale prices, and before I came here, I was under the impression that the coal oil refiners were robbing us. However, since I came to Ottawa I have taken the trouble to go into the matter with certain gentlemen who knew all about the rates and everything connected with coal oil, but who are not interested in it, and I figured the thing out. I have discovered that it costs us 15 cents a gallon to lay coal oil down in Prince Albert from the wells at Petrolia. The oil itself costs about 12½ cents a gallon, and with inspection fees and other charges the cost is brought up to 31½ cents, so that after all I have come to the conclusion that the coal oil men are not so much to blame as are the railroad companies for the high freight rates charged. I hope that the Government will take into consideration the advisability of allowing the oil to be brought to the Territories in tank cars. We want permission to take the oil in tank cars from the wells of Petrolia right to the point of destination. At the present time, the oil is taken in tanks to the city of Winnipeg and it has to be inspected and barrelled there. It is then re-shipped to the town in which I live, or to any other town in the Territories, and we are obliged to pay a local freight rate upon it, which is as high as the rate from Petrolia to Winnipeg, and in some cases a great deal higher. This is unfair to the Territories, and as it is a matter which can be very easily remedied, the remedy should be applied at once. With reference to farm machinery, I know that the manufacturers have a great deal of freight to pay, and I presume that because of that they cannot sell the implements very much cheaper in the Territories than they do at the present time. I believe, however, that a great deal of the opposition to the machine manufacturers, was caused by the action of the firm of Massey-Harris & Company, who do not deal as they should deal with the farmers of the Territories. I heard an hon. gentleman state in this House, that this firm had lost a lot of money in the Territories. Well, if they have, I can say that it is not on account of the manner in which they do their business. They take good care to have the very best security, and they take no business risks whatever. They never let a piece of machinery out of their hands until they have a lien note upon it, which is registered, and very often they are not satisfied with a lien note, but take a chattel mortgage on his live stock as well, so that if the settler does not pay when the note comes due they very often sell the poor man out.

I wish to speak in a straight forward manner in reference to this tariff question, Mr. Speaker, and I must say that I am not satisfied with that part of the tariff which refers

to agricultural machinery, because I think that the manufacturers had enough of protection before, and now that the duty on raw material has been cut down, I believe that the duty on the manufactured article should be cut down also. Under the regulations of the late Conservative Government, although the duty was supposed to be only 20 per cent on agricultural implements, yet we found that when machinery was imported the McCormick binder was valued at \$100 for duty, while it was invoiced at \$80, so that under the regulations of the late Government, although the people were supposed to pay only 20 per cent they were actually obliged to pay 25 per cent. If the present Government makes a fair and square valuation of the implements that are imported, I have not the least doubt that the people of the west will be perfectly satisfied. We are not unreasonable out there, and we do not ask for impossibilities. I am glad, Mr. Speaker, to find that the present Government is not forgetful of the western country. They have put binder twine and barbed-wire on the free list, and these are two articles which are largely used by our farmers. We have a prairie country, and there is a good deal of fencing to be done, and I am sure that the farmers will hail with delight the removal of the duty on barbed wire. The same remarks apply to binder twine. The Government have also lowered the duties on sugar, and many other articles which I could mention, such as nails, &c., which will be of great advantage to the farmer. I am also glad to find that the Government have increased the duties on liquors and tobacco. No right-thinking man would object to that. Both of these articles are luxuries, and are good subjects on which to raise a revenue. I regret that the Government did not put a tax on tea, because it can easily bear a tax and is a good revenue bearer. We produce no tea in this country, so that if a duty were placed on it every pound of tea would furnish a revenue to the treasury, and would enable us to reduce the taxation on other things which the farmer uses in the pursuit of his industry. If the Government put a small duty of 1 or 2 cents a pound on tea, the consumer would not have to pay any more for it, because the average profit on a pound of tea is 12½ cents, and the result would be that the retailer would simply have to reduce his profit. On the other hand, if the Government put a duty of say ½ cent a pound on sugar, the profit is so very low that the retailer would have to raise the price to the amount of the duty.

As regards the preferential tariff I take the view that it is going to be a great benefit to the people of our western country. If the vessels coming to this country can get more freight from the other side—and I believe this will be the effect of the preferential tariff—they will be able to reduce their freight rates, and the people of the west