

of our country when the Conservative party had not full appreciation of the fact that the prosperity of the farmers was absolutely essential to have progress in this country. Canada cannot get ahead unless the farmers are prosperous. They are certainly not prosperous in Ontario to-day. As far as western Canada is concerned, I think perhaps they are more prosperous than the farmers of North and South Dakota and of one or two other states bordering on this country, from the fact that our farmers in the West grow the best wheat in the world. They are good farmers, they work hard, and do the best they possibly can, but they have a heavy railway rate against them. It is less than in the United States, because in this country the farmers have been given the benefit of a railway rate to the head of the lakes which is 9 cents a bushel less than the American farmer gets; and I am glad of that because it gives the Canadian farmer a chance. But, coming as I do from one of the largest manufacturing cities in Canada, Toronto, I want my farmer friends to understand first and last that we believe we can have no real or great prosperity in any country unless the farmers of that country are prosperous. I do not think that what the government has done for the farmers this session is going to help very much in making them prosperous. I do not see how the five or ten dollars apiece will bring them prosperity. However, the western farmers are well able to look after themselves. They send a splendid lot of representatives to this parliament, men of great ability and intelligence, well able to look after themselves, so I am not proposing to give them any advice as to how they should conduct their own affairs. But I want this made plain: As far as the manufacturing interests of this country and the Conservative party are concerned, no sane man believes that this country can become great and prosperous until our farmers are made prosperous, and kept prosperous, and are treated fairly and squarely. It is clear they are men of great intelligence, and how they can go back seventy or eighty years and advocate free trade I do not understand. It is all very well in theory, and if we had free trade all over the world, and every country was free to import the natural products of the rest, we would have a lovely time; but when the other countries of the world have adopted a different policy and each has said, in effect, "We will keep all our business for our own country," there is not going to be any great prosperity in those other countries where free trade is adopted as compared with

[Mr. Bristol.]

those countries that are looking after their own interests, and where manufacturers, farmers and the working people are in unanimous agreement for the good of the whole country.

Mr. EVANS: What is the matter with the farmers of Dakota? Have they not got protection?

Mr. BRISTOL: If my hon. friend will excuse me—I am speaking with very considerable difficulty—I can mention an article on the subject which appeared in a recent issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, April 14, 1924, in which he will find the whole subject dealt with,—what the government of the United States is doing for the western farmer of that country who has not been intelligent enough to keep Mr. Pig and Mrs. Cow and these other accessories which our farmers go in for and which help to tide them over bad periods, bad crops and bad weather. That article deals with the subject much better than I could. I am trying to deal with the problem on a broad basis, and I say that in no country can you have prosperity unless the farmers are prosperous, and the idea of many farmers that the manufacturers are a body of gentlemen with their mouths wide open, wanting to eat up everybody else, is a great mistake. I know many distinguished manufacturers of Ontario whose fathers are farmers in the province of Ontario. Why? Because the farmer on the farm in Ontario produces the best breed of men and women anywhere in the world. They grow up in the fresh air amid healthy surroundings, and come to our great universities. They are splendid men, and they take possession of our cities and manufacturing just as my hon. friends to my left are taking possession of this government to-day.

I want to come back for a moment to what I think might help the situation in this country. I am quite satisfied that the five or ten dollars apiece that the farmers will get out of these tariff changes will not help them very much. There is another question. How are we going to get back into this country almost the one million French Canadians who are in the United States to-day? We want them back in Canada, because there are no better people in the world than these French Canadians, men and women, and there is no more prosperous province than Quebec, and no province that is better run. We would like to see these people back in this country. What has my hon. friend done in his tariff changes to get them back? He has had three or four members from the province of Quebec get up and tell him what a rotten tariff it is,—and they have not done full justice to it,