

knives, hoes, rakes, pronged forks, snaths, farm or field rollers, post hole diggers, all reduced from 35 to 25 per cent. Barbed wire and binder twine have been placed on the free list. Horse powers, threshers, steam engines, separators, feeder or feed cutter or machines, potato diggers, farm wagons, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, wind mills, pumps, &c., have been reduced from 30 to 25 per cent. Here are 24 articles which farmers largely use, and on all these important reductions have been made.

Another promise made by the Liberal party has been fulfilled. We promised to do our very best for the people, not only for the farmers, but for the whole people of the Dominion, to secure reduced transportation rates. Although we cannot increase the prices of agricultural products in England by any legislation enacted here, we can adopt measures to enable the farmers to get their products to market as cheaply as possible. The Government have adopted two or three methods by which to accomplish this result. One is to extend the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. I believe this is a bold stroke of policy and one in the interest of the country, because when this extension is carried out, it will become an active competitor of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railway at the point of reception of products from the great west, and if a combination were entered into between those two great private interests, the Government railway would modify that combination by giving proper rates to people on their products sent from the west to the sea. In that way, the Government has adopted a wise policy in extending the Intercolonial Railway to the city of Montreal, the great centre of the trade of the west.

Sir, we promised to repeal the Franchise Act, one of the greatest iniquities ever placed upon the Statute-book of the country. Nothing so abominable in principle was ever crystallized into the law of this land. It was conceived in iniquity, and begotten in sin, and it was enacted for a political purpose. In 1884, when the Conservative party met in caucus to talk over the effects of their so-called National Policy for four or five years, Sir John Macdonald was at their head. That astute statesman, that man who in my opinion was one of the greatest leaders of men who ever appeared in Canadian politics, that man who could take his Conservative friends by the nose and lead them as easily as you could an animal to the market; he was astute enough to fear the coming elections, and out of his fertile brain he evolved the Franchise Act, hoping that the revising officers of his own pick and choice would so stuff the list as to return to this House a majority pledged to support him. Our friends fought that iniquitous Act for six long weeks in this House, and I am almost

sorry they did, for if it had passed into law as introduced, the indignation of the people would have been such that it would have to be repealed within a year. The Liberal party promised as soon as they got into power, that they would repeal that Act which legislated Conservative members into this House, in spite of the votes of the people. Every person who has had his eyes open during the last ten years knows, as well as he knows he has a nose on his face, that it was an Act for the purpose of legislating into the councils of the nation persons whom the electorate refused to send here. We have introduced a Bill to repeal that Act, and by doing so we will reduce the taxation on the people of this country. The Franchise Act cost the treasury of the Dominion \$1,250,000, although we had only four revisions. It has cost the people of this country, both parties contributing, at least half a million more for revision, and now this vast expense will be wiped out as we promised it should be, and our franchise will be placed upon a more equitable basis.

The Liberal party promised more than that. We promised preferential trade with Great Britain, and we are now carrying out that promise. The Conservative party are very meek and humble now, because they were obliged to eat humble pie by the electorate, but for years they claimed that they were the loyal party, that they were the men who had associations for the purpose of bringing around preferential trade with Great Britain. What a change has come over the spirit of their dreams. To-day one speaker after another on the Conservative side of the House rises in his place to throw cold water upon this loyal and patriotic National Policy which our Government has proposed. Let me bring this matter in a more tangible form before hon. gentlemen. Let me point out that in 1892, the Liberal party foreshadowed this policy of preferential trade with Great Britain. We offered this policy to the Conservative party by resolution, but the Conservatives would not accept it. Let me show how loyal and how British these men opposite are. Why, the most British and the most loyal man in this House—or at least he supposes he is—was the author of the following resolution. In April, 1892, Mr. McNeill moved:

That if and when the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admit Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom upon more favourable terms than is accorded to the products of foreign countries; the Parliament of Canada will be prepared to accord corresponding advantages by a substantial reduction in the duties it imposes upon British manufactured goods.

Notwithstanding the fact that every product of our country is permitted to go into the English market without a single cent of duty being charged, and notwithstanding