

more than a gallon of coal oil this season. As a matter of fact, farmer after farmer rose in our meetings throughout the province of Manitoba and declared that they were only able to secure one gallon of coal oil for one bushel of wheat. Owing to many considerations the price of wheat has been much higher this last season than it has been on an average for many years past. Of course the higher price of coal oil is not wholly due to the duty. We suffer especially in the matter of coal oil from the high freights. It is also fair to state that the retailer charges a very high profit on coal oil. We also suffer from the restriction in connection with the bringing in of coal oil in tank cars and also from the duty on barrels.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the difficulty about tank cars ?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I understood that there were certain restrictions in this respect, that we were not allowed to distribute the coal oil in the North-west in these tank cars—that we could not send a tank car, for instance, to Regina or Prince Albert. I believe American oil is barrelled before it comes in the country, and I think I am correct in saying that at least most of the Canadian coal oil is put in barrels in eastern Canada. I believe that, under the law and regulations, we are unable to distribute the imported product in tank cars throughout the country.

Mr. FRASER (East Lambton). If the hon. gentleman will permit me, I would state for the information of himself and other hon. members that the barrelling of coal oil for the North-west is done in Winnipeg. I would also like to say a word as to the price at Pembina, which, I think, he stated at 12½ cents, while the price a short distance away on the Canadian side is 35 cents. It is quite manifest that the price a short distance from the border on the Canadian side should be the price on the American side plus the duty. Now, 12½ cents plus 6 cents duty would be 18 cents if the gallons were the same.

Mr. WALLACE. It would be 5 cents duty, allowing for the wine gallon.

Mr. FRASER (Lambton). Yes, the imperial gallon is one-fifth larger than the wine gallon.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Continuing my remarks I may say that I was disappointed that the Government announced a reduction of only 1 cent per gallon on the duty on coal oil. We in the west had advocated free coal oil. I may say that I scarcely expected that we might be able to get it free, but we fondly hoped, at least, to have the duty cut in two. However, something has been promised us in regard to the removal of these restrictions; and gentlemen connected with the coal oil trade inform me

Mr. RICHARDSON.

that the removal of these restrictions will represent a further reduction of 1½ cents or 1¾ cents per gallon. Assuming this to be correct the change amounts almost to cutting the duty in two. I sincerely hope it will be so. I have just one brief observation with regard to the coal oil industry itself. The petroleum produced from the Canadian oil fields, as it comes from the earth is inferior to the American article. I am informed that it is supercharged with sulphur, the extraction of which is a very costly process to which the American crude oil has not to be subjected.

I come now to deal with the question of agricultural implements. The figures I will quote were given before the Tariff Commission when it sat in Winnipeg, and I have no reason to believe that they are not accurate; for, according to my recollection, and I attended all the sessions of the commission there, I heard none of these figures contradicted. Now, a binder which would sell for \$100 in Ontario costs the settlers of our province \$145. The McCormack or American binder sells retail for \$119 south of the line, in Manitoba for \$155. To demonstrate the enormous profit on binders you will allow me to cite one circumstance. Some years ago an accident happened to a train load of McCormack binders in the United States, and according to the court record, I understand, the claim which the manufacturers put in for these binders was only \$36 a piece. A seeder made in Brantford for \$17 sells in Winnipeg for \$70. The duty on a binder is \$20, and on a mower \$8. If you estimate the duty on a farmer's entire outfit, I am told on good authority, that it will be found to be about \$500. I am sure the House will agree with me that that is an enormous tax for the settlers in the North-west to pay. Then there is the question of arbitrary valuation at the international boundary. The binder which is most popular in Manitoba and the North-west is the McCormack, the American binder. This is said by the settlers to be, far and away, the best binder that has ever been produced on this continent. But, when they are imported into our province under the regulations of the late Government which, I understand, are being carried out now, instead of these binders being admitted at \$80, the price at which they are invoiced to the dealer in the United States, they are entered at \$100. Thus the settler in Manitoba is obliged to pay 20 per cent, not on the price of the implement, but on the arbitrary valuation of \$100.

Mr. WALLACE. I understand the hon. gentleman to say that \$80 is the price to the dealer. Has he any evidence of that ?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I have no evidence.

Mr. WALLACE. I deny the statement, and I can prove the contrary.