

has not resulted as the hon. gentleman predicts it will.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I am afraid the difficulty must be that my hon. friend and I belong to the outer class which cannot dictate to the banks, because I have reason to believe that that favoured inner circle is already receiving some advantage. But I do not put it on that ground alone. If that inner circle were receiving the advantage, and nobody else, then I would not argue that the step was a very advantageous one in the sense I mention. But we all know that the rates of interest do not change in a moment, and, if the borrower who now pays 6 per cent, can get a lower rate—my information is, and I believe it, that many are getting their discounts done at lower rates than twelve months ago—although for the present the advantage may be confined to that favoured inner circle, I believe it will gradually work out of it and my hon. friend and myself may some day get the benefit.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Is there any hope of our getting into that inner circle?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Not while we are in politics.

I want to say something now with regard to the tariff policy of last year. I find that there is a change of front on the part of some hon. gentlemen opposed to the Government on that question. When the tariff policy was announced last year, the Conservative speakers and organs—I remember particularly an article in a leading organ of public opinion in Toronto,—took the ground that we were making changes which were threatening the business interest of the country, that the business of the country could not stand the policy which this Government had enacted. The Conservative speakers and organs told us that we were going to destroy the great industries of the country. Well, Mr. Speaker, the cry has changed to-day. Looking over the year's operations under that tariff, and finding that the business of the country has gone on increasing and expanding every day, finding that that cry cannot any longer be used, these hon. gentlemen have turned around and say: You did not make any changes in the tariff at all; you have the old National Policy after all. Well, each of these claims is unjust. We made a change in the tariff—a change that was moderate and reasonable, a change that guarded against rash disturbances, but which, nevertheless, effected substantial reductions on the rates of duty, so that the tariff of the country is no longer the old National Policy. I wish to remind the House that in the old tariff, which hon. gentlemen opposite admire so much, there were specific duties which ran up as high as 40 and 50, and I do not think I go too far when I say,

Mr. **FIELDING**.

60 per cent of the value of the article. All these high duties, at all events a great many of them, have been removed. Many of the articles which in former times paid a duty, under the old tariff, of 40 and 50 per cent, and as high as 60 per cent, will be found scheduled in the present tariff at 35 per cent, subject to a further reduction, under the preferential clause; so that, as between the old and the present general tariff there is a considerable reduction of duties on a number of articles. And, when you take into account the reduction which has taken place, and which will be increased on the first of July next, by the operation of the second stage of the preferential tariff, you will find that this Government has given the country a very substantial measure of tariff reform. I hold a list of about sixty items taken from the tariff. I might have made the list much larger, but that sixty will be sufficient for my illustration, and, perhaps, hon. gentlemen opposite will not want to listen to the whole list. The only reason I ask them to do so is, to get the list on "Hansard," but if, after I have read from the list a few minutes, they will dispense with my proceeding further—

Mr. **FOSTER**. Read it through.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. My hon. friend is relentless; but other hon. gentlemen on that side may not be so insistent.

Mr. **FOSTER**. That is the only way you can get it on the "Hansard."

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. My hon. friend used to get some things into "Hansard" which he did not read in his Budget speech, and I hope he will not object to my being given the same privilege.

Animals, living, n.e.s.—Under the old tariff the rate is 20 per cent. Under our general present tariff the rate is 20 per cent; but if they should come in under the preferential clause, it will be 17½ per cent, and, after the first of July, the rate will be 15 per cent, as against 20 per cent under the old tariff.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does my hon. friend expect many?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Not very many; but, such as they are, they will receive the benefit of tariff reform. There are a few cases in which you cannot expect the articles to come under the preferential tariff, because they will not come from Great Britain or the countries entitled to that preference. That is a fair criticism, and I do not want to urge that in every one of the cases the preferential rate will apply, but it will to most of the articles on this list. There are very few cases in which I quote a rate in which the importer will not receive the benefit of the preferential clause. The following is the list—