

it. Therefore I shall make but very few remarks touching the question that has been discussed here for the past two weeks. Before doing so, I feel, Mr. Speaker, as though I should congratulate the hon. the Minister of Finance upon the speech he made in this House on the 14th day of this month. I have had the pleasure on many occasions of listening to the hon. gentleman, not only in this House but outside of this House, and, if my judgment is correct and my memory serves me aright, I have no recollection of any occasion on which I have heard the hon. gentleman make as able an effort as he did here on the 14th day of this month. I was proud of the man, and proud of the province that produces such men, especially when I remember that of the eight men who have occupied the position of Finance Minister since Confederation the small provinces down by the sea have given this Dominion four, two from New Brunswick and two from Nova Scotia. I might go further at this moment, and say that the little province of Nova Scotia has given to Canada her Premier. It is a source of gratification and pride to me to be able to look back and remember the large element of not only moderately able men, but men of decided ability which those provinces have sent here, who have since Confederation occupied seats on the Treasury benches of this House. I feel in saying this that I am simply stating what is entirely true as a matter of history. Now, Sir, prior to the delivery of the Budget speech in this House, several motions were placed upon the Order Paper having for their object the reduction of the duties on several articles, such as binder twine, agricultural implements, barbed wire and coal oil. I listened to the discussions on these questions as attentively as I could. I listened to the various arguments that were advanced for the reduction of the duties on those articles and the arguments advanced in favour of retaining the duties; and as the discussion went on I felt, and the further it went the stronger I felt, that the province of Ontario was the whole of the Dominion of Canada, and that there was nobody in the Dominion of Canada but the Ontario farmers—no classes deserving of any consideration at the hands of this House or at the hands of the Government in dealing with the tariff, other than the poor, down-trodden and oppressed farmers of the province of Ontario. Now, Sir, while I felt that the conclusion I had reached at the time was entirely correct, as the debate went on I changed my mind, and I have almost come to the conclusion now that the province of Ontario is the whole earth, if not the whole, very nearly the whole, and that there are no people on this globe but the down-trodden farmers of Ontario. While travelling through that great and rich province, I have seen nothing but prosperity on every hand. I have seen well cultivated fields, splendid houses and buildings, and evidences of prosperity on

Mr. CHESLEY.

every hand, and when I heard the discussion with reference to these people in this Parliament I was more than surprised. However, the question presents itself to me in another form, and that is this: While these people are anxious that the duties should be reduced on all articles which the Ontario farmer uses in the production of his crop, they are quite satisfied that the duties imposed on all articles which he produces and which enter into consumption in other industries should be retained. They are anxious that the Ontario farmer should be protected and given the entire market of Canada. Take this illustration. Take the great lumber industry of this country, which has to pay a heavy duty on flour, beef and pork, and which consumes large quantities of these articles in the production of lumber. These articles are supplied very largely by the Ontario farmer. Are the Ontario farmers willing to have the duties reduced on them, or do they wish these duties to remain so that they may continue to control the entire Canadian market? It is not fair to the people engaged in the great lumbering industry that they should be obliged to buy their supplies from the Ontario farmer, and then have to go out into the markets of the world, where the law of supply and demand obtains to sell their products. That is the condition which is to be imposed upon us at the will of the Ontario farmers. Are there any other industries deserving the support of Parliament? I say there are. There are the great toiling masses of this Dominion. We have them with us in the shape of the men who go into the lumber camps, and we have our artisans, and our sailors, and all these toiling classes, who consume the farmers' products. These all buy your flour. You feed us entirely in the Maritime provinces, and yet you insist on the duty remaining on these products of yours, in order that our markets may be monopolized by you, while at the same time you want all the duties on the articles which you have to use in order to produce your crop remitted, such as the duties on agricultural implements, barbed wire and binder twine. This discussion has led me to the conclusion that the wisdom of the Government in deciding that during recess they will get all the information they can, with a view of dealing with this question in a fair and equitable manner—not from the point of view of the farmers alone, but from that of every class of the community—and come to Parliament with a measure during next session, cannot be doubted. We have in the Maritime provinces an industry which I consider next in importance to agriculture, the greatest industry we have in the Dominion. I refer to the lumber industry. All the articles that enter into the lumberman's camp are heavily taxed. The food which the lumbermen consume is heavily taxed. I am not objecting to that at present, but only arguing that it would be inconsistent on the part of this Parliament to take one set of duties off and allow the others to remain. I would like