

protection to the farmers and people who are raising that food. The system that is pursued in England is very different to that. What duties there are, are imposed with the object of raising as much money as possible, and the items that are selected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in making up his Budget are selected because they will produce the greatest amount of revenue, at the least inconvenience to the people of the country. This is a very different situation to the one we have in a country such as Canada, where the duties are placed, very largely, for the purpose of protecting the different interests of the country. This gives some reason why the cost of living in Canada to-day is going up, out of proportion to the cost of living elsewhere. There is no doubt that the cost of living has increased in all the countries of the world in the last few years, but the increase in the cost of living is greater in Canada than in other countries. A good deal of this can be attributed to the fact that, in Canada, we have not been going ahead and producing the food stuffs for the country in the way that we should. Too much attention has been given in late years to speculation, and things of that kind, without paying due attention to how much we can produce out of the land. The farmers of the country have got to realize that the first thing to do is to produce the stuff that we require in the country.

Another point that was made by the hon. leader of the Government in his speech, and one that was rather a surprise to myself, was that the agriculturists of Canada must be protected as well as the manufacturers, and that an attempt to revise the tariff downward would be followed by a protest from the whole agricultural community. Any hon. gentleman who has followed what has been going on in the country for the last few years must have been very much surprised at that statement. We have read in the papers that the legislatures of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have passed resolutions asking the Government to reduce the duty on wheat coming into this country, and the farmers have also expressed their wish that something should be done to relieve them in this matter. As was pointed out the other day in a certain case, the Government could have saved the farmer, or put into the pockets of the farmers of the Northwest from five to six million

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

dollars, had the Government done as the farmers asked them and reduced the duty on wheat coming into this country, in order to avail themselves of the offer that has been made by the United States Government. This is one of the things the Government should have done to help the position of the country at the present time. We find, however, that the Government of to-day is apparently not prepared to take steps to meet conditions as they exist in this country, but is sitting back and contending that it is not in its hands to deal with the present situation. The Minister of Finance appears to have satisfied himself that the condition of things throughout the country has got to its lowest point, and everything is going to improve. Therefore, according to his method of reasoning, there is no necessity for him to do anything. He will find it very hard, indeed, to persuade the people of the country that things are quite as well as he makes them out to be. I do not think that he will be able to persuade the farmer that he is to be benefited when the farmer is told that he is to be protected. The farmer may not, perhaps, be so desirous of being protected as hon. gentlemen and the leader of the Government seem to think, because the farmer at the present day does not find that this protection is keeping things out of the country in possibly the way he desired. I know that in the province from which I come there has been a considerable agitation on the part of the fruit growers because they claim that they are not getting the protection that they are entitled to. It is always understood that the present Minister of Agriculture, in the election of 1911, had promised his supporters that if the Conservatives returned to power he would be able to increase the duty on fruit coming into Canada, and help them in the way they wish. That is one of the arguments used in the campaign of 1911, and the fruit growers in that part of the country certainly thought that they were going to get some relief in this way. They have found that the growing of fruit has not been such a money-making business as a large number of gentlemen who went into that business in 1908 thought it was going to be. They have found there was great difficulty in getting their fruit to market and in competing with the fruit that comes into this country from other sources. Like a great many others, they believe that the only help in a case of that kind, is to have