

travagance which hon. gentlemen opposite raised before we went out of office. I was amazed when, the other day, instead of charging extravagance against the ex-Minister of Finance, he described as the parsimony of the ex-Minister of Finance in starving the public works of this country. Well, I am informed that no such charge can be brought against the present Minister of Finance. Certainly, no such charge can be brought by his own constituents at any rate against a gentleman who, I am told, asked this House last year to vote money for fourteen harbours in the constituency which he represents himself, and for 173 miles of railway in which his constituency is more or less interested. Certainly, if parsimony belonged to the ex-Minister of Finance, it does not belong to the gentleman who occupies that place at the present time, at least for the riding where he hopes to be elected again.

Now, Sir, as to taxation. In 1896 the customs taxation of Canada was \$3.94 per head; and in 1899, \$4.84; and it will need more than all the thunder of the Minister of Customs, and all the poetical quotations of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and all the sunny smiles of the Prime Minister of this country, to make the people of Canada believe that they are not taxed more than they were in 1896. The Minister of Customs says, though, that they are saving a great deal to the farmers of Canada upon agricultural implements and tools of various kinds.

Mr. COCHRANE. That is a joke.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not think it was a joke, I think it was really intended to be taken in earnest. But there is not a farmer in Canada who will not believe that it is a species of humour of which the hon. gentleman has attempted to be guilty. He gives in parallel columns what the duty would have been in 1896 and what it is in 1899. But I will read the whole table showing the saving to the farmers according to his figures:

Farm and field rollers.....	\$ 16
Pronged forks .....	1,095
Hay tedders .....	35
Hoes .....	250
Hay knives .....	10
Manure spreaders .....	35
Post-hole diggers .....	28
Potato diggers .....	34
Rakes .....	490
Scythes, snaths, sickles, reaping hooks...	3,736
Spades, shovels, &c.....	2,000
All other agricultural implements.....	2,207
Wind-mills .....	1,800
Threshers and separators.....	3,600
All other portable machinery.....	4,974
Wire fencing, &c. ....	3,200
Stoves .....	3,300
Axes .....	4,100
Saws .....	1,800
Files and rasps .....	4,200

Adzes, cleavers, hatchets, hammers, picks, mattocks .....  
Tools, hand or machine ..... 29,000

On cutlery \$19,000 is paid more than in 1896, his table shows.

Altogether, \$87,602, which he says he has saved to the farmers of this country upon these articles. Now, I want to make a calculation. The farmers did not use all these stoves. I think out of the 3,200, it is fair to take 1,500 for other people. I am taking his own figures, and do not question their accuracy for this argument. He says that \$4,100 were saved on axes. Well, I think probably the lumbermen will use half of them, and I will take \$2,000 off that figure. Then \$1,000 were saved on saws. I suppose the mechanics will use half of these, and I will take half away. Files and rasps, farmers do not use in most cases, and I take them all away. And so I go on with the rest of the list, taking out what I think very fairly may be said to have been used by other classes of people, and I find that for all Canada, according to the hon. gentleman's own figures, he has saved to the farmers of this country \$53,000 on these articles. Now, then, there are, according to the returns of the Department of Agriculture, 416,600 farmers in Canada, and taking his own figures, which the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) has shown to be absolutely astray and misleading, he has saved to the farmers of this country exactly 12 cents each. There are six members in each family on the average, which is 2 cents each. But then, when you come to figure up what has been undoubtedly demonstrated to this House, that on the one item of coal oil alone the consumers of Canada are paying about \$600,000 more than they did in 1896, 12 cents appears at a great disadvantage. And yet, after giving these figures, the hon. gentleman, in a voice that would waken sleeping generations, says: This is the most magnificent policy which the parliament of Canada has ever passed.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why did you leave out barbed wire and binder twine?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I just took the table which the hon. gentleman gave himself. I am afraid the hon. gentleman did not like to put barbed wire and binder twine in, because they would not look well just now. The hon. gentleman says he relieved the farmers of the price of binder twine. Will he tell us how much percentage on the stock was paid by the Brantford Binder Twine Company? Will he tell us that any industry that is run under fair rules of competition in this country, can pay 100 per cent to the men investing their money in it? Yet that is what the stockholders of the Brantford Binder Twine works got last year. A man who had \$500 in stock got \$500 of dividend, and the farmers of Can-