

the classes to which it catered were in a position to buy implements. If that industry is crippled to-day, it is because the purchasing power of the agricultural classes has been greatly weakened. I do not think the agricultural implements industry will be greatly benefited by tariff increases. What is needed to put that industry back into its formerly prosperous condition is a restoration of the purchasing power of those classes of our people who need implements. The farmers will not be able to spend freely until there is an increase in the prices of their products, and there is not a very good prospect for such increases this year nor probably for some years to come. It seems to me that it is a mistake to flaunt increases in the agricultural implements tariff in the faces of farmers of the West who are receiving extremely low prices for their products, and who probably will undergo greater hardships this winter than they have experienced in many years. I am afraid those farmers will interpret the new tariff as indicating that the Government has no sympathy with them at the present time.

We are told that manufacturers who are to receive the benefits of higher protection will not increase the prices of their products. But our experiences in the West have been such that we cannot place much hope in promises of that kind. It may be that prices will not go up immediately, but they are bound to rise later on. During the years that I have been coming to Ottawa and travelling through other parts of Eastern Canada, I have found that the invariable question in the spring is, "What are the crop prospects in Western Canada?" Businessmen, bankers and railroad officials are keenly interested in the state of agriculture in the West, because they know that the success of industry as a whole in Canada depends largely on the success of Western crops. I am not and never have been an advocate of absolute free trade for Canada; I always have felt that industry in the eastern part of this country needed a certain amount of protection, and for that reason I have attempted to take a middle-of-the-road course. As I have already stated, my thought has been that what we need above everything else in this country is a strong national sentiment, so that different sections will understand the needs of, and cooperate with, one another. It is on that account that I so deeply regret the bringing down of measures that are likely to result in increasing discontent in some parts of the West, and in reintroducing discord and agitation.

The Government has said that its policy is a Canada First policy, framed with the object of relieving unemployment and assisting industry all over the Dominion. But that policy, as expressed in the tariff, will not benefit industry in Western Canada. Why is it that the coal industry, which is highly important in Alberta and British Columbia, is not granted some relief under the tariff, with a view of giving employment to tens of thousands of miners who are out of work because there is no market for the products of the mines? If the consumers of the West are to be forced to purchase the products of textile industries of the East, why not force the people of the East to use Western coal? Of course, I admit it would be ridiculous to use the tariff as a means of compelling people in Eastern Canada to use coal mined in Alberta and British Columbia, but that would be as reasonable as the compulsion that is being applied to consumers of textiles and other products. And what consideration has been given to the men who are raising sheep throughout the length and breadth of Canada? Is any effort being made to force the woollen industries to use the wool from Canadian sheep? If so, I have not noticed it.

In confining its measures of relief to certain industries and sections of the country, the Government is encouraging the feeling that it has a sectional rather than a national outlook. I feel that the Government should have done everything possible to increase unity and harmony in this country. I am not an advocate of the extreme views of Western Canada, neither am I in sympathy with the extreme views of Eastern Canada. I like to take, as I have already said, a middle-of-the-road course, which I believe will be in accord with the views of all fair-minded people in every section of our country.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: I merely want to register a protest, because people who have examined the tariff schedule tell me that it will be of very little help to the steel and coal industry of Nova Scotia. I understand that the duty on iron is to be 50 cents a ton. What is the use of that, when iron can be manufactured in Belgium and Germany \$6 and \$7 a ton cheaper than in Nova Scotia? I have in mind what happened to the British Empire Steel Corporation, in which so much money was sunk, and which has been superseded by the Dominion Coal and Steel Company. I suppose that the original stockholders—I am sorry to say I was one of them—will not get any more than eight or nine cents on the dollar for the money they put in. I do