

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a rule I would not speak on the Address, but, under the present circumstances, I think I should be doing a great injustice to the North-west Territories if I did not express the opinion which I know to be entertained there that this Address is an Address which was not to be expected, having regard to the promises and statements made by the candidates in support of the hon. gentleman who is now the head of the Government, and also having regard to the statements made by the hon. gentleman himself and by distinguished colleagues of his in the North-west Territories and elsewhere. I may say here, in passing, as it has come up in this debate, that I echo now what I said from my place when the hon. gentleman was leading the Opposition, that if the Liberal party was to come into power, no man could occupy the high position of Premier, no man could win that bright eminence, who would be more welcome to myself, if he will permit me to say so, or probably more welcome to the country, than the hon. gentleman. Having said that, Sir, I have to say, also, that when I recall the emphatic statements made by the hon. gentleman, and also the professions made time and again, and repeated in this debate, professions of a super ingenuousness of character, this Address is disappointing to those of us who have studied his speeches, and disappointing to the numbers throughout the North-west who, as I know, were influenced by promises made upon the hustings. The statement was made during the late election in the North-west Territories that should the hon. gentleman who is now at the head of the Government, come into power, the first thing he would do was to place agricultural implements on the free list. That was the statement made on every platform, and swallowed by the electors throughout the North-west Territories. And, as a consequence, I am in a position to say authoritatively, that hundreds of votes were cast for the candidates supporting the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government. And what are we told now in this Address? We are told that that cannot be done at present. If it is the intention of the Government to place agricultural implements on the free list, and thus to meet the desire of the farmers of the North-west Territories, and carry out the promises made by the Liberal candidates and by the supporters of the Liberal candidates in the North-west Territories, why delay it? Can any reason be given for delay? The hon. gentleman who just preceded me has argued, and I think has argued fairly enough, that there is no reason whatever for delay if the intention is to give a revenue tariff. And, of course, the argument made as to the effect upon the country by other speakers is an argument that is irrefragable, patent and convincing to any sound understanding. But that to which I wish to call the attention of this House and

the North-west Territories is this: That we had a fair and plain promise made that if the hon. gentleman was placed in power, agricultural implements would be placed upon the free list. Therefore, the hon. gentleman is not quite free from being obnoxious to some of the suggestions and aspersions that have been made as regards his own ingenuousness. He flung across the floor of this House, and so did some of the other hon. members, notably the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright)—flung at the leader of the Opposition a taunt of disingenuousness, and of using words for the purpose of concealing thought. But, Sir, having regard to a careful study of the speeches of the hon. gentleman, having regard to his statements concerning the tariff made, now in cities, now in counties, now in the North-west Territories, now in eastern Canada, having regard also to his statements upon the school question, I was forced, and forced most unwillingly—because I am an admirer of the hon. gentleman—to the conviction that no man ever studied more closely or brought to a finer degree of perfection, the art of cloaking the naked truth. I was forced to come to the conclusion that he was a political toilet-maker, a political costumer who had studied the art how by flourishes of rhetoric and skilfully-contrived phrases to cloak defects and suggest beauties that did not exist. This political toilet-maker went to the North-west Territories. And what was the impression he gave when speaking in Winnipeg and elsewhere? Why, Sir, he gave the impression that the farmer of the North-west Territories was in a state of bondage, not perhaps so complete, to use his own language, as that in which the southern slaves were before emancipation, but essentially of the same kind. It is not merely the hon. gentleman who has given us that picture. I have here a picture drawn by the artist of the Reform party for the "Globe" newspaper, a gentleman of genius who at one time was an artist, but who now has devoted his brush to partisan purposes. He gave us a cartoon showing the farmer who is supposed to be typical of the farmers of the North-west Territories. This man is lying down, having fallen among thieves, like the man in the parable. And the hon. gentleman (Mr. Laurier) comes to him as the good Samaritan, and is giving to him wine and applying oil to his wounds. But, as the Winnipeg "Free Press" said, the most logical thing to do would be first to knock off the gyves from his wrists, and the fetters from his ankles, and after that administer the wine of flowery rhetoric, and the oil of sunny phrases to the unfortunate and suffering man. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman need not complain, therefore, if we, coming from the North-west Territories, hold him to the description that he gave of the farmer of the North-west, because that description is given by the "Globe" news-