

I believe that upon many agricultural products the duty ought to be increased. I want to say that a country like Canada, possessing agricultural possibilities second to none in the world, should not be handicapped in competition with the United States, and should not be obliged to import from that country nearly \$28,000,000 worth of agricultural and animal products. The farmer is protected in this country to a certain extent, he should be protected to a greater extent, and the Conservative party will be prepared, upon attaining power, to give him a further measure of protection which in its opinion the interests of the country demand.

I think that quotation is sufficient to prove to the country that there is a vast distinction between the policy of the government and the policy of the opposition with respect to the farming classes of Canada. I repeat that the farmers will be disappointed in the right hon. gentleman and in the Minister of Finance, when they consider the proposition which the government are asking us to accept, a proposition which involves the removal of almost every vestige of protection the farmer has on the products he raises upon his farm.

Now I want to look at the other side of the tariff. I want to point out that there are a large number of articles that the farmers require that are not touched by this new proposition. I want to point out that while this government have taken away protection on the products of the farmer, and reduced protection on some of the products they raise upon their farms, they have left a pretty strong tariff protection on the articles they require in their houses and the implements they use on their farms. When a farmer wants to buy a wagon, he finds there is a tariff of 22½ per cent upon it; a buggy, 35 per cent; a piano, 30 per cent; boots and shoes, 25 per cent and 30 per cent; furniture in his house, 30 per cent; harness for his horses, 30 per cent; whips, 30 per cent; gloves and mitts which the farmer wears, 30 per cent; braces and suspenders for his clothing, 35 per cent; collars and cuffs, 37½ per cent; scythes, forks, hoes, rakes, axes, all of which the farmer requires, 22½ per cent; self binders, 15 per cent; mowing machines, 15 per cent; sewing machines that his wife requires in the house, 30 per cent; field rollers, 25 per cent. I am only mentioning a few of the articles the farmer requires to use on his farm. The farmers of this country will, therefore, see that the government, while taking the duty off wheat, barley, oats, peas, vegetables and fruit, taking away the protection the farmers have, has at the same time, allowed protection to remain upon all these articles that he requires to use, and upon a few luxuries in which he may wish to indulge. That shows the difference between the two

parties in respect to the tariff as it affects the farmer.

Now I want to say a word about trade conditions. For the fiscal year ending 30th March, 1910, our total purchases from the United States amounted to \$223,501,809; their purchases from Canada amounted to \$113,150,778, showing a difference of \$110,351,031. For the past decade the returns, in round numbers, shows imports from the United States of \$1,000,000,000 and exports to the United States of \$500,000,000. In other words, 7,000,000 Canadians purchased twice as much from the United States as 90,000,000 people in the United States purchased from Canada. That is the position of the tariff at the present moment. Now let me consider the question of the tariff as it affects manufacturers. I am one of those who believe that there can be no tariff in Canada for the manufacturer, that does not help the farmer, and the mechanic, and every other man; and there can be no tariff upon farm products or upon animals of the farm, that is not in the interest of every other man in this country. Therefore, I say that a protective tariff which is a uniform tariff, and gives every class a fair field and an equal chance, must be the best policy for the people of this country. There is invested in the manufacturing establishments in Canada at this moment \$1,200,000,000. They have an annual output of the value of \$1,000,000,000; employing 435,000 working men, and paying in wages annually, \$250,000,000. I declare here, as representing the people, that an interest so valuable should be taken care of by any government. The 'Monetary Times,' of Toronto, is responsible for these figures: There are at least 200 manufacturing establishments, branches of United States industries, now located and operating in Canada, with an investment of United States capital of \$24,000,000. That is something worthy the consideration of the government and of the people of Canada. There is no doubt in the world, that had it not been for the protective policy inaugurated by the Conservatives, and generally speaking, continued by this government, not one of these establishments would be to-day in Canada, and the wages they pay, would be expended in the United States. Let me read what President Taft expects for the United States from this agreement. At page 8 of his message to Congress, he says:

The benefit to our widespread agricultural implement industry from the reduction of Canadian duties in the agreement is clear. Similarly, the new widely distributed and expanding motor vehicle industry of the United States is given access to the Dominion market on advantageous terms.

At page 9 of his message he says: