

is the same man who, in 1907, not only voted against reducing the duty on agricultural implements, but got up in his place in the House and spoke against any reduction in the duty on agricultural implements, putting himself on record as one of those expressing the unquestioned view of the western farmer, that the western farmer in 1907 did not want the entire duty taken off agricultural implements. Now he says he is expressing the view of the western farmer. What changes have taken place in the western part of this country? Has the western farmer changed his mind in regard to the duty on agricultural implements? Or is the changed attitude of my hon. friend due to the fact that he is now sitting to your left instead of to your right? On that occasion the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Schaffner) moved for a reduction in the Fielding tariff, and the hon. Minister of Finance of the Laurier Government, the Hon. Mr. Fielding, rose and argued very strongly that it would be a very wrong thing to expect men to accept the motion of the hon. member for Souris, and reduce the duty on agricultural implements; and, like a good, stalwart, loyal supporter, the hon. member rose and said that he thought this was certainly right. He said: "Do not reduce the duty; the farmers in the West do not want the duty reduced." Now, when this same gentleman gets up and preaches along the lines he has taken since the change of Government, we have a right to take his statements cum grano salis—with a good liberal supply of salt at that.

The hon. gentleman says that there are 100,000,000 people across the line who are anxious to buy our products, who are craving our Canadian products. He says that they removed the duty on cattle. If they took the duty off Canadian cattle they had a purpose in view. I would suppose that their purpose was that they wanted the cattle to come into the United States, and, if I am correct in my reasoning in that respect, I would suppose that the reason they do not take the duty off wheat is that they do not want the wheat to come in to the United States to the extent that they wanted the cattle to come in. But is the United States the natural market for Canadian farm products? I know that that assertion has been made repeatedly by hon. gentlemen opposite, but, in my judgment, the United States is not the natural market for Canadian farm products. I say that the Minister of Trade and Commerce is

justified in sending out his trade commissioners seeking to enlarge our markets and to encourage trade with countries across the seas. I say that the West Indies, for instance, are a natural market for many of Canada's farm products, because these farm products are not indigenous to the West Indies. The natural markets for our products are those countries where these products do not naturally grow, not countries like the United States, where they have a surplus of these products. In what condition do we find the United States, so far as farm products are concerned? It is not starving for Canadian farm products; it is our greatest competitor in the markets of the world in these products. What country, of all the countries in the world, today produces the greatest amount of wheat for export? Am I not absolutely right when I say that the greatest wheat-producing and wheat-exporting country in the world is the United States? Large as our export was of last year's crop, it was small, indeed, compared with the exportable surplus of wheat in the United States. In the production of wheat the United States ranks first among the countries of the world. As an exporter of wheat the United States ranks first among the countries of the world. In the production of corn the United States ranks first among the countries of the world. It produces, I venture to say, as much corn as the rest of the countries of the world put together. In the production of oats, and in the exportable surplus of oats, the United States is far and away ahead of Canada. I venture the assertion that the United States to-day exports a larger quantity of meats than any other country in the world. Yet the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) tells us that the United States is the natural market for Canadian wheat when the United States exports more wheat than any other country.

Mr. TURRIFF: And oats.

Mr. EDWARDS: He tells us that the United States is the natural market for our oats, though it is a large exporter of oats. He says that the United States is the natural market for Canadian meats, though the United States exports more meats than any other country in the world to-day. The hon. gentleman will not attempt to deny my statement in that respect.

Mr. TURRIFF: Is my hon. friend asking a question?