

plated ware, liquors, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, &c., &c. the duty has been increased by this new Liberal tariff, thus vindicating the promises made by the Liberals to the people.

We promised, further, when we were in Opposition—and I remember some resolutions we put upon the records of the House on the subject—that barbed-wire should be given to the farmers of this country at a much reduced rate of duty or placed on the free list. The Liberal party has fulfilled that promise by placing barbed-wire on the free list and has given to the farmers of this country some great advantage, and particularly given an advantage to the farmers who went to the west, that greater Canada, to work out their destiny. The Government has come to their assistance in this way, and this change will leave in the pockets of the farmers thousands and tens of thousands of dollars which was formerly paid to the manufacturer.

I wish now to draw a comparison between the duties under the National Policy, so-called, of the Conservative party and the Liberal National Policy, the policy now in vogue and which will continue in vogue, probably, for the next fifty years. I want to show the duties under the old policy compared with those that will be charged under the new policy a year from 1st July next. The present duty will be between the two figures I shall read. In this respect I think a large benefit, a most extraordinary benefit will come to the consumers in this country. Now let me read you a table giving a comparison between the Conservative National Policy and the Liberal National Policy, or reciprocity tariff, in respect to a number of articles :

	Con. N. P.	Lib. N. P.
Wire nails, shovels and spades....	P.c. 35	P.c. 26¼
Linens, napkins, table cloths, &c..	35	26¼
Cuffs, shirts, knitted goods, &c....	35	26¼
Woollen cloths and clothing.....	35	26¼
Gloves, mitts, suspenders, &c.....	35	26¼
Braces, wall paper, &c.....	35	26¼
Earthen and stone ware.....	30	22½
China and porcelain ware.....	30	22½
Wrought iron nails and spikes....	30	22½
Hats, caps and bonnets.....	30	22½
Iron castings.....	25	18¾
Builders' and other hardware....	32½	22½
Cutlery	25	22½
Files and rasps.....	35	22½
Axes and scythes.....	35	18¾
Adzes and saws.....	35	22½
Machinery	27½	18¾
Clocks and watches.....	25	18¾
Cotton fabrics (white).....	25	18¾
Cotton fabrics (coloured).....	25	22½
Socks and stockings.....	37	26¼
Window glass, plain.....	20	15
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Pig iron, per ton.....	4 00	1 87½
Iron and steel ingots, per ton....	5 00	3 00
Bar iron, per ton.....	10 00	5 25
Cast iron pipes.....	10 00	6 00

One-eighth reduction, which goes into effect at once. The duty will be midway between the above rates.

And yet our hon. friends on the other side say that we have stolen their clothes ; and they say that we have made no change in the interests of the consumers of this country. Why you know, Sir, that the large importations which will take place under the new tariff must of necessity come into this country a great deal cheaper than they came in under the old tariff. And who is to receive the benefit of this treatment ? The hundreds, and thousands, and millions of people in this country who are consumers of these articles which are imported from abroad. And yet these gentlemen say that nine-tenths of our policy has been stolen from them. In iron, too, there has been a reduction which is going to be an important benefit to the products of the various factories of this country. The duty on pig iron per ton was \$4, and under the new reciprocity tariff it will be \$1.87½. Iron and steel ingots per ton, under the old tariff paid \$5, under the reciprocity tariff they will come down to \$3 per ton. Bar iron per ton under the old tariff was \$10, it will come down under the new to \$5.25. Cast iron pipes under the old tariff were \$10 per ton, under the new reciprocity tariff they will be \$6 per ton. One-eighth of the reduction is made now, and the figures which one-eighth will make, stand equi-distant between those ranges of figures, which I have given you above. Now, I ask if they have not carried out the promises that were made, not that we would put iron upon the free list—no such promise was ever made ; and I challenge any hon. gentleman opposite to quote one sentence or one paragraph from any Liberal who was speaking on behalf of the Liberal party, in any section of the country, from Vancouver to Cape Breton, who said that the Liberal party would put iron on the free list. We said we would give the manufacturers freer iron, and so we did. We told the consumers of this country that we would give them freer goods, and so we did. We did not promise them free trade, it was beyond the limits of our power to give them that ; but we gave them all that we believed would be in the interests of these industries, and at the same time enable us to raise sufficient revenue to conduct the affairs of this country. Now, I want to show you how much we have paid for the higher duties on iron for the last five years. We paid no less than \$413,858 in bounty for the protection of pig iron from 1891-92 to 1895-96. We paid no less than \$993,405 duty on the 248,352 tons imported from foreign countries. Now, Mr. Speaker, you know that when a duty is placed upon any particular article, it gives an opportunity to the manufacturer in this country of the same article to increase the price to the consumer by reason of the duty. I do not suppose that the manufacturer in