

cent of the duties that he paid upon the raw material that entered into the production of that implement. How did the Government treat the Canadian farmer with respect to that implement? Let me quote to you on that matter, a few words from the organs of the Patrons of Industry.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). Do hon. gentlemen opposite think that the Patrons are not farmers? Do you think that they have not got intelligence the same as we have? I heard one gentleman on that side of the House use the term "illiterate Patrons, if there are any." You did not hear it from this side of the House, but he qualifies it: illiterate Patrons, "if there are any." Sir, I say it is an insult to the agricultural population of this country. It is an insult to the Patrons of this country. What is the reason that the Patron institution is in existence to-day? It is simply as a protest against the burdens that this Government have imposed upon the farming community. They feel that things are out of joint, that they are not getting fair-play under the present administration of public affairs, and like everybody else they band themselves together for the purpose of advancing their own interests. Sir, I remember when gentlemen opposite cultivated that organization very carefully, just a little less than a year ago. All the nice things they could think of were said about the Patrons and their policy: but for how long? Just while they tried to use them for the purpose of defeating the Ontario Government, and when gentlemen opposite did not succeed in making the Patrons a tool for that purpose, then they turned around, and now they call them "illiterate Patrons." I point to the existence of that organization as an evidence of the feeling of unrest that is abroad to-day, because of the conditions induced by hon. gentlemen opposite and their policy as applied to the country. Now, this is what the Patron organ said on the 1st of May, so that it applies to the present time, and it is none of your seventeen-year old fairy tales such as we have heard from that side of the House:

The low tariff makes it more profitable for England to trade with them than with Canada. It is obvious the Canadian farmer, taxed by the tariff and combines till his back is sore, is in no position to compete with Argentina. Not content with imposing those drawbacks on ourselves, we have recently ordered that the Canadian manufacturer of implements, who imports his pig iron, coal, steel, &c., and pays high duties thereon, shall be allowed a remission of 99 per cent of the duty when the finished goods are destined for Argentina, Australia, United States, or any other foreign competitor, but shall pay the whole amount of duty and charge it to the Canadian consumer, with interest and profit added, when the machine is sold here at home. To "promote Canadian industry: keep Canada for the Canadians."

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth).

And this is to promote Canadian industry and to keep Canada for the Canadians. I recommend hon. gentlemen opposite to wrestle with these facts, and I ask them if they are not literally true? The pig iron that goes into these implements has been taxed at the rate of \$4 a ton, and if it is Canadian iron there is \$2 a ton bounty added to enable the Canadian manufacturer to produce it. All his other articles are taxed in the same ratio from \$10 to \$13 a ton on the other various grades of iron that enter into the manufacturing of these implements. Everything is taxed for the benefit of somebody else, and just as the paper I have quoted from says: If that implement is sold to the Canadian farmer, he has to pay every cent of that duty, whereas if it sold to his competitor down in Argentina he gets every cent off. Do you call that keeping Canada for the Canadians?

Now, just let me look for a moment at the competition the Canadian farmers have to face. We have to find a market outside of Canada for \$50,000,000 worth of our Canadian products, and who do we compete with? We compete with Argentina, for example, that last year, according to the British official returns, sent 13,000,000 cwts. of wheat to the British market, sent 30,000 live cattle, and sent one and a half million carcasses of frozen mutton. Under what conditions do the people of the Argentine Republic ship these products to the British market? The River La Platte is navigable for 2,000 miles for large vessels up into those great plains of Argentina. They raise that wheat and those cattle almost in sight of the ocean steamer that takes those goods on board and delivers them into the English market where they meet us on exactly even terms. What is our position in Canada? We gave \$62,500,000 to build the Canadian Pacific Railway to carry our products from the great plains of the North-west down to the ocean, and we have charged such high rates on that railway that the bulk of that wheat last fall found its way through American channels down to the seaboard. We have to meet the Argentine farmers in that open market of England under those conditions, and, Mr. Speaker, do the Government call that keeping Canada for the Canadians? In addition to that, these gentlemen in Argentina have this advantage, that while we are taxed at from 30 to 35 per cent on what we buy and consume, their duties run from 5 per cent on cottons up to 10 and 15 per cent on other goods. They do not pay half the duty that we pay to begin with, and they sell goods against us in the world's markets on even terms. And yet gentlemen opposite tell us that the National Policy is a blessing to Canada, when we have to sell in face of that competition, and when we have that competition more intensified by the action of this very Government in giving the Argentine farmers their imple-