

is specially the mouthpiece in the cabinet and the guardian of western interests. What did he say in Perth? What did he say in Toronto? What did he say in Woodstock? He said the tariff is now a fixture, that the people are satisfied, that the government have complied with all the conditions called for by the utterances of the cabinet ministers and the platform of the Liberal party in 1893; they have performed all those conditions, and the manufacturers are flourishing and everything is lovely. There is the representative of the farming interest of our western country, and if hon. gentlemen would only read the papers they would see the indignation with which these utterances are received. There is only one paper of any importance out in that western country that is supporting the hon. minister, and that is what used to be the Canadian Pacific Railway organ, the *Winnipeg Free Press*. It is known to be the Canadian Pacific Railway organ, a publication which belongs to Canadian Pacific Railway shareholders, or to private individuals owning the company, and to all intents and purposes it has been loaned to the minister for value received during his term of office as an advocate of his interests. It has fallen short of the mark. It has lost prestige and has not accomplished the intended object. While it has been a good paper politically, it has failed in its object, and the other organ, the *Winnipeg Tribune*, owned by Mr. Richardson, a supporter of the present government in the House of Commons, in every day's issue is denouncing the Minister of the Interior. The Liberals of the city of Winnipeg are divided in their opinion as to his merits and as to what he means by his utterances. Then we have Mr. Mulock the Postmaster General. He said in Toronto that the tariff was a fixture, and there was no more to be said. I have not followed the utterances of other ministers, but we get glimpses of what they have to say from time to time in the western country, and the gist of the whole thing is that they are quite satisfied. That some terms have been made with the manufacturers, with the hon. Mr. Bertram of the city of Toronto, that ten years is to be given them without any reduction of the tariff and they are begging for a little longer time at the present moment. I want to tell the government that in the western country we are simply and solely an agricultural population, an inland population, and in addition to the

other difficulties which we have to contend with we have long transportation to export our goods to the seaboard, and we import no free goods in our western country, comparatively speaking. I will read to the House a list of the free goods:

Animals for the improvement of stock; we have not imported them to any extent and any improvement of stock we have obtained from the eastern provinces.

Articles for the use of the army and navy; we import nothing.

Broom corn, nothing.

Anthracite coal: we import a little of that. It is free.

Coffee: we import coffee to a small extent.

Indian corn: that is rather a competitor than anything else with agricultural produce—not that I wish to make any complaint about it, because the fact that five million dollars worth were imported last year is an evidence that it has been useful, but at the same time it is a competitor with agricultural products. If it has any effect upon the farmer's produce that effect is to reduce the price of coarse grain.

Cotton waste, we have nothing to do with.

Raw cotton is imported for manufacture.

Dyes, chemicals are imported for manufacture.

Fishing nets, &c.: we are an exporter of those.

Fish: we are an exporter of those.

Fruit, pine apples, &c.: the city of Winnipeg imports some of those.

Fur skins: we are an exporter of those.

Grease for making soap: we have nothing to import for our soap factories.

Hides and skins we export.

Gutta-percha, &c.: imported for manufacturing purposes.

Bolt cloth imported for manufacturing purposes.

Metals, brass and copper, imported for manufacturing purposes.

Steel rails, imported for railroads.

Iron, tin, &c.: those are imported for manufacturing purposes.

Oils are imported for manufacturing purposes.

Raw silks imported for manufacturing purposes.

Tea is free with us.

Tobacco we do not import in its raw state.