

able to advise me, and he tells me that, in his opinion, the national wealth of that country is not greater than I have stated.

If we calculate the United States wealth as being twenty times as great as our own we ought to be able, if we adopt the same schedule as they do in the country to the south of us, to raise by direct taxation in this country \$235,350,000. It is true that some of us will have to give to the state a great deal more than we have been accustomed to, but I do not mind that as long as the division is fairly done. I say that up to the amount that is absolutely required for a man to live respectably, and to bring up his wife and children respectably, the Government should endeavour as far as possible not to touch that amount. Over and above that amount, however, the Government should be prepared to take, and the people should be prepared to give, a very substantial proportion of what Providence has blessed them with.

Now, I have, to my own satisfaction at least, shown that it is not economically unsound to reduce the customs duties, and it is my desire now to place before the House the way in which the tariff affects the agricultural interests of this country. I have before expressed the opinion in this House—which I believe is concurred in by very many—that most difficult and troublous financial times confront this Dominion, unless we are able to induce to come upon our fertile fields and to remain upon those fields, a very much larger number of people than now live in the rural parts of Canada. I think, Mr. Speaker, that whoever is to blame for it, we are over-developed, as far as railways and urban development are concerned, and what we need to-day is to develop the rural parts of our country. Now, can we expect to induce people to come into Canada, and can we keep people on the farms of Canada, unless we give them substantially as good living conditions as they will obtain in the United States of America, or in other parts of the world? I do not believe we can, and that is the reason I would crave the indulgence of the House while I place before hon. gentlemen the conditions under which the farmer suffers, and perhaps especially the Western farmer, because the latter produces for a world's market. The price of his products, in many instances, is settled not in Canada at all, but in Liverpool, and it is necessary, in order that social and economic justice be done him, that what he requires to buy he should be able to obtain at a reasonable and proper price.

[Mr. McMaster.]

Mr. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Does my hon. friend think that the trend from the rural to the urban centres in Canada, say in the last ten or fifteen years, has been greater than it has been in the United States?

Mr. McMASTER: I am not prepared to say that, but I am prepared to advance the opinion that a high protective tariff has increased the trend of people from the country into the town. I know from my own experience as a member of the Bar in Montreal that, man after man, the leaders of the Bar, are country boys who came into the city because there was greater wealth, and greater opportunities for their ambition, in the city.

Mr. EDWARDS: How does my hon. friend account for the movement in England from the country to the town?

Mr. McMASTER: I will reply to my hon. friend in this way: That the trend citywards from the rural districts has been found in all countries. In the United Kingdom Free Trade was the great thing that built up the cities, and the drift citywards—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. McMASTER: I believe I am correct in what I state; that Free Trade is what built up the cities in the United Kingdom, and I say this—that if the cities had not been built up under Free Trade in Great Britain, the shield and buckler of the Allies would never have had the money to keep the war going that it has had.

What I propose to do is, to lay before the House, as graphically as possible, the burdens under which the Western farmer suffers through the tariff. I know that to read long lists of figures is tiresome for the speaker, and more tiresome for the hearer, but nevertheless, I would ask hon. gentlemen to come with me to the home of the farmer on the Western prairies, and if I make any mistakes, there are those on the other side of the House who will be able to kindly set me right, because perhaps they know a great deal more about the matter than I do.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McMASTER: Let me say this, Mr. Speaker, that those who know more about this matter than I do will be those who will most entirely agree with me. Now the Western farmer gets up in the morning—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

An hon. MEMBER: At what time?