

most practical attention at the hands of this Government. It has been a matter of very great satisfaction that the crop of 1913 was marketed fully four or five weeks earlier than in any previous year, and that congestion from which the country suffered for so many years in the past with reference to the transportation of the crop from the fields to the head of the Great Lakes and from there to the seaboard, was not repeated during the past year. It must be a matter of satisfaction to the agricultural community, and those having interests in the crops, that terminal elevators and facilities have been furnished to the extent that has been done by the Government. I think that I am justified in saying that the finest elevator in the world was last year constructed by the Government, and opened during October last for the storage of grain. Somewhat similar terminal elevators are being constructed now in Moosejaw, and at Saskatoon. Plans have been prepared for the erection of a somewhat similar elevator at Port Nelson. It is also, in contemplation, that similar elevators should be built in Alberta, and one upon the Pacific coast. The Government, I think, may felicitate itself, and the people of Canada, upon what is being done towards marketing the crops in a practical and expeditious manner.

Some attention has been given to the question of free food. My hon. friend touched upon that very lightly. He undoubtedly felt that he was on thin ice, and skated over the dangerous spots with a rapidity and adroitness which my hon. friend can do when he reaches a very dangerous question. I have been waiting for some time for my hon. friend's attitude to become known upon this question, although up to the present my hon. friends on the other side of the House, have not committed themselves very specifically to the remedy which should be furnished as to this particular difficulty. The remedy suggested by the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons was the placing of food products on the free list. The tariff always affords a very convenient target for any attack that may be made with reference to any public difficulty. If the price of living is high, the tariff becomes responsible for it. If trade is depressed, the tariff of course is responsible. If money is tight the tariff should be looked into, and the remedy there found. I need not point out to hon. gentle-

men that the tariff divides itself chiefly into two branches—the protection which is given to the farmer, and the protection which is given to the manufacturer. It is self-evident that the interest of manufacturers would be to have tariff walls as low as possible as to food. It is manifest that, if the manufacturer can secure cheap food for his artisans, it means lower wages, it means cheaper production. On the other hand if we are to have a properly balanced tariff, the agricultural interests must be fully considered along with the interests of the manufacturer. The agricultural interests are the greatest interests which we have in the Dominion of Canada, and no tariff could possibly survive, not only the criticisms of the public, but the practical results which must flow from a tariff, that did not give equal consideration to the protection of agriculture.

The question of cheap living is agitating the entire world at the present time, or, if I might put it, the question of the lessening or reduction of living expenses. The question arises: Would the lowering of the tariff on food products reduce the high cost of living? There is no evidence of this whatever, and yet such a statement is unhesitatingly made in the press, on the platform, and in almost all quarters where proper consideration is not given to the question. The Democratic party in the United States for many years have been pronouncing their denunciation of the high tariff of the United States. They made demands from time to time for the lowering of that tariff. Never, of course, have they been so successful as during the last year. The Democratic party in the United States undoubtedly reached power by appealing to the masses upon the effects of the reduction of the tariff on the high cost of living. Immediately they came into office, they proceeded to implement the promises which they had made to the public, and to carry out so far as they possibly could the promise that they made that the reduction of the tariff would produce the results, which had been anticipated. But what has been the result? We very well know that the agitation which for a year or more prevailed in the United States over the reduction of the tariff, produced to a very large extent a dislocation of the industries of that great country. And when the reduction of the tariff in that country was brought about, we had a consensus of opinion, the press in the United States,