

be driven out of business by the fierce competition which I understand they all experienced during the past season. I stated that last year the Canadian steel companies had considered asking the Government to put a duty on galvanized fence wire, but they had only asked for a duty on pig iron, and that, no doubt, from private information which had been given to me, they would make the request at the coming session of Parliament. This information came not from the Government or any member of it, but from a banker who is in close touch with these companies.

The company of which I am president is the largest independent wire company in Canada. We are parts of no merger or combine. We have always stood for free competition. We manufacture over 50 tons of wire daily, and employ over 200 skilled workmen. For instance, the wire for toilet pins, the wire that is used to bind books, and the wire that goes into the spring mattress is no longer imported exclusively from Great Britain or the United States, but a considerable portion is made by our company, by Canadian workmen.

The Sarnia Fence Company buys about three tons per day of finished galvanized wire of the poorest quality and cheapest grade made in the United States, brings it into Canada, puts it through cheap looms run by a few boys. This will give hon. gentlemen some idea of the relative magnitude of the two companies, and their value to the industrial life of this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. member is rather exceeding the bounds of relevance. The rule is to state the case and confine himself to a denial or explanation, without going into any argument.

Mr. CURRIE: I am very sorry to trespass upon the time of the House, but the *Globe* and other Grit newspapers throughout the country have made an attack upon me, and I can see no other way of putting myself right in the eyes of the public than by making a full explanation.

Not very long after I had been to Sarnia, the famous green circular was issued by Mr. McCrae, of the Sarnia Fence Company. It was then that I found out he had been in the habit of issuing circulars about his competitors and using them for advertising purposes, as he used me. It was an old story with him. Of course, being a public man, he made free use of my name, and violently garbled what I said. I was in a helpless position. If I denied what he said, I knew that any one so unscrupulous as to issue circulars such as he had issued on former occasions against his competitors, as well as myself, would not halt at anything. He had his secretary with him

when I called, while I was alone. I neither affirmed nor denied his statements, preferring to give him enough rope, and his lies would, ultimately, hang him. They did. He saw his chance to get some free advertising out of the Grain Growers' Guide, which, by the way, is the great organ of the American manufacturers in Canada—a journal that is prepared to go any length in misrepresenting any Canadian who desires to see his country prosper.

In the letter published in the Grain Growers Guide, Mr. McCrae gave his whole case away. In his first letter, which was prepared with some skill, he said, speaking of myself:

He further stated that in his position as a member of Parliament he had inside information to the effect that before the end of the present year, the Government was going to take wire for farm fencing off the free list, and put a duty on it, which would give the merger an opportunity to increase their profits on the manufacture of fence, and he by completing this merger would be able to take advantage of it.

Now, we are not in position to say whether Major J. A. Currie has the confidence of the Government or not, but he seems to think he has, and if he or any other parties could induce the Government to put duty on the now free sizes of wire, for fence purposes, the result would be the same, you would have to pay the shot. The same day this change in duty takes place, the price of fence must be advanced. Do you think it is fair that every farmer in Canada should be specially taxed, that Major J. A. Currie and his colleagues may wax and at your expense?

This was what he said in the Grain Growers Guide. Please note the difference:

According to the statement of Major Currie, member of Parliament in the Dominion Parliament for North Simcoe, made to the Sarnia Fence Company, that he, as a member of the Government, had inside information to the effect that before the end of the present year the Government was going to take wire for farm fences off the free list.

You will observe in the first place he stated that I was a member of Parliament, and in the second place he has the hardihood to say I was a member of the Government.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CURRIE: I am not like some hon. gentlemen opposite, who for many years sat on the Cabinet steps and knocked at the door, but did not get in. I have never knocked nor asked my chief for any favour for myself, personally. In answer to the letter appearing in the Grain Growers' Guide, I stated as follows:

In the first place everybody knows I am not a member of the Government as stated by your correspondent, consequently I could not