

platforms in the country, that the National Policy would never allow the price of wheat to go below \$1 a bushel ; but no advocate of the National Policy, either in this House or in the country, believes that that would be an invariable rule. What we did claim was, that in years of scarcity a duty would be of great service to us, but that only helps a few, and a large number suffer thereby.

To carry out that idea the hon. gentleman quoted the difference in price of wheat in Chicago and in this country, and he found that the difference amounted to 15 cents a bushel in favour of Canada. Had that taken place last winter, about January or February, it would have been of great advantage to our farmers. But at present they have sold nearly all their wheat. I venture to assert that in the county I represent, where there is one who has a bushel of wheat to sell, there are twenty who have to buy their flour. In that county they generally raise oats, and sell their oats and buy flour. So that the high price of wheat to-day is of no advantage to the farmer who has no wheat to sell. If anything could be done that would make the market steady all the year round, that would be an advantage. But it is poor consolation to the farmers to tell them that prices have gone up, when most of the things they sell are out of their hands. Now, I wish to touch just for a moment upon a remark that was made by the hon. Controller of Customs in regard to pork, in order to set that matter right, because our hon. friends opposite have come to be very ingenious in the way they present their arguments, and the hon. Controller presented this one with great skill. The hon. gentleman said the price of heavy mess pork in Toronto was \$15.75 a barrel, and in Chicago \$12.02 to \$12.12, it would cost 40 cents per barrel to bring from Toronto to Chicago, the duty is \$4, and so the Canadian farmer gets \$3.25 of the \$4 duty on the article of mess pork. When I heard that statement I was curious to find what was the price of live hogs. I went to the reading room and consulted the "Mail-Empire," and found that the price of live hogs in Buffalo was \$4.90 per cwt., live weight ; in Chicago, \$4.70 ; in Toronto, \$4.80, and in Hamilton, \$4.75 ; so that the price in all these places was nearly the same. Probably in Toronto only a few barrels of pork were sold, while in Chicago large quantities were sold. But, at all events, when the farmers are getting no higher price for their hogs in Toronto than in Chicago or Buffalo, and there is such a difference as \$3.70 in the price of mess pork, the difference must be due to the combines ; therefore, they cannot be getting their share ; there must be a combine in pork that forces up the price in Toronto, and I do not consider that that would be to the general advantage ; it would only put more money into the pockets of the gentlemen forming the combine. A great many of the arguments put forward by hon. gentlemen opposite are

devised as ingeniously as that argument. Now, it has been paraded as a great advantage to the farmers of Canada to stop the importation of such a large quantity of wheat as came into Canada during the time of the Mackenzie Government. I cannot see the point of that argument. Any person who consults the Trade and Navigation Returns will see the exports of wheat, the produce of Canada, and the exports not the produce of Canada. I am glad that at that time our enterprising exporters and merchants were enabled to make profits by purchasing wheat at Chicago and sending it through to Liverpool. In 1878 there was a profit made by those who handled wheat in this way of 37 cents a bushel. They also handled a large quantity of indian corn, on which they made a profit of 20 cents a bushel. This was a benefit to the people of Canada. I remember the circumstances very well. Only a small quantity of wheat came into the country for consumption, but in return a larger quantity was exported to the United States. I remember farmers teaming ten, twenty, thirty or forty miles to the city of Toronto and selling their wheat to American buyers on the wharfs. The wharfs were so crowded that sometimes the farmers had to wait four or five hours before they could get their wheat delivered, so great was the quantity exported to the United States ; and it is a well-known fact that when the American vessels went away, there was a drop in the price of wheat of three or four cents a bushel. This year 7,000,000 bushels of corn, not the produce of Canada, have been exported, and this has been brought through Canada and shipped to Great Britain, while only 711 bushels of Canadian corn has been exported. The great majority of the farmers of this country would prefer to be able to import corn free of duty, because it would enable them to feed their stock cheaper, and sell their stock at a greater profit. So that it would help them if corn were brought in free. This is the opinion of the most intelligent farmers in my riding. Now, Sir, the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot) asked if the Liberal party would put a tax on raw materials. I do not know what they would do if they were in power, but the Conservative party have put a tax on raw material, that is, on sugar, and I do not know under the circumstances that they have done wrong ; because when a revenue has to be raised, I think it is just as well to raise it from raw sugar as anything else. All the money raised by that tax will go into the public treasury, and none of it would flow into the hands of the manufacturers. Speaking of the deficit of \$4,500,000 this year, there was not one hon. gentleman on this side of the House who accused the Finance Minister of incapacity because of that deficit. But when the Mackenzie Government was in power and there was a deficit under the then Finance