

I make the statement here, which I believe to be correct, as far as my knowledge goes, that there never were any goods made in the whole world for the price, which equalled in wearing qualities the goods manufactured by our Canadian mills from honest Canadian manufacturers. One yard of good honest Canadian woollen such as we were manufacturing previous to the enactment of the preferential tariff—which caused our mills either to close down or make a shoddy class of goods such as they did not desire to make—will wear out five yards of the shoddy imported to-day to the disadvantage of the working men and the labourers of this country, who are the class of people that have to buy cheap goods. This government should come to the relief of the woollen manufacturers. The policy they have adopted has wiped out millions of dollars of capital and driven 5,000 to 7,000 mechanics—who were good citizens, making their livelihood and spending their money here—into foreign countries where their labour is used in producing goods that come into competition with ours. I trust the government will do something to help that industry. Deputations after deputations have been waiting upon them with the view of getting some relief, but so far they have been turned down.

In my district we also grow a great amount of tobacco, and could produce millions of pounds. I was very glad to hear the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue state that he would take into consideration the tobacco question and see if he could not afford our farmers and tobacco growers greater protection. 'I want to give this government some credit for having helped this industry to a certain extent. But it is not fair that we should import millions of pounds of tobacco grown by the United States farmer and which come into this country practically free, when we are compelled to pay an excessive duty if we want to export any over to them. We can grow both the quality and quantity we get from the United States; and therefore instead of importing that 17,000,000 or 20,000,000 pounds from that country, we should give our farmers in Ontario a chance to grow that tobacco and sell it in our own market. There are many questions relating to agriculture which I would like to discuss. But I know that hon. members do not wish to remain in this excessive heat longer than is absolutely unavoidable, so I will confine what I have to say to one or two points.

The first matter—upon which I shall have but a word to say—is the question of our cattle. Our farmers are hampered by the freight rates on stock. They do not get the rates that are given to our neighbours to the south. Our government should lend aid towards obtaining an equal freight rate with that afforded to our neighbours, thus

giving our farmers the same advantage in the market that the Americans have.

And, now, just a word on the subject of cold storage. In the last election I had to face many glowing statements of what this government have done for the farmers in the way of providing cold storage facilities. Well, I can only say that I have never seen any adequate cold storage facilities provided by this government, nor any that came near being adequate. In Kent county, in which I have the honour to represent, in which I live, has a season almost a month earlier than any other portion of the Dominion. The report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries shows that we produced more apples last year than the whole of British Columbia, more than the whole of Nova Scotia, more than the whole of New Brunswick. We not only produce apples, but we produce peaches, grapes and other perishable fruits in vast quantities. This government should do something in order to enable the farmers to market their products, which have been largely going to waste. Millions of dollars worth of fruit have been lost in Kent county because there were no adequate facilities to take it to market. Practically the whole apple crop of that county went to waste last year because of lack of cold storage. Now, if this parliament can spend money lavishly to build railways and to give them to corporations, it can well afford to provide cold storage plants in the districts in which they are most needed and to give them to the farmers of this country. From the statements I have heard, and from what I have read in 'Hansard,' I infer that the cold storage plants that we have in this country are inadequate, they are not up-to-date. I was surprised to hear the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) advocating the old ice system of cold storage which has quite gone out of use in New York and other states where they produce large quantities of fruit. In those states they have adopted the up-to-date mechanical system. It is time that our Minister of Agriculture should wake up to the needs of the situation and adopt for this country the same system. He would then be doing something for the farmers, which they are justly entitled to and for which I think he would receive more credit than for many of the things he is doing at the present time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I trust that I have not worn out the patience of the hon. members of this House. If so I make ample apology. I do trust that the government will take into its serious consideration the interests of the farmers, the labourers and the mechanics of this country. The arguments that I have tried to set forth apply to the manufacturers in this country as well as to the farmers. In-