

stroyed the rural life of Ontario itself, to say nothing of the other provinces. In fact, our system of class privilege has destroyed at last the very foundation of our industrial and agricultural life. What shall be said of the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Raymond), who says that although ploughing a lonely furrow, he will still do so with a Brantford plough? He will stick to his course. The trouble with our protectionist element is that they have been stupefied by privilege granted by law. They look upon it now as their inherent right. Protection at the best is a national imposition, any phase of it. Sir Richard Cartwright called it robbery by law, and robbery it is; but the pitiful thing about it at this late date is the fact that those who were given the privilege in the first place fail now to discern even that robbery is a sin. The only thing that hurts now is the fact that the pocket they have been accustomed to pilfer is empty.

I should like before closing to call attention to some statements of the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens). I wish he was in his seat. In a most passionate speech the other day he undertook to tell us what was wrong with the country at this time. He said that tariffs should protect against a lower standard of living. Everyone in the party to which I belong knows that those to-day engaged in the basic industry of this country have their standard of living lowered by the tariff itself to the very limit of existence. In this connection, too, I would point out that the favourable balance of trade mentioned by the Acting Minister (Mr. Robb) is more due to the fact that our people have sold to the poverty line than to any general prosperity.

Now, the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) implied that our trouble is attributable to the farmers raising but one commodity—a most erroneous idea and made in actual ignorance of existing facts. His philosophy is terribly astray when he says that we should have a tariff that would give us advantageous admittance to the markets of other countries. Yet he deplored the fact that Canada bought \$4,900,000 worth of goods from Germany! He said, "This is an evil." But we sold to Germany nearly three times that amount of goods. He also said that we could gain favourable access to other countries by a tariff. And he believed that we should treat other countries as they treat us. Yet when asked by an hon. member from this side if he would be willing to treat Britain,—free trade Britain—as she treats us, by giving her free entry to our market, he answered, "Oh, no, that would be

[Mr. Evans.]

an evil too." And this, notwithstanding the fact that over four hundred Canadian firms are to-day successfully doing business in Great Britain selling Canadian goods! But the protectionist mind is always a mystery. It has now become so callous as to demand a preference in the British market because we, in our erroneous idea of fair play, give Great Britain a nominal advantage only to climb our virtually inaccessible trade barriers.

The hon. member also says that we must protect our factories so that our railroads will have the tonnage needed to make them pay. It is surely a well-known fact that manufacturing can only be carried on successfully when the raw material may be had on a very short rail haul. This as things go is natural. I know a factory can function any old place under protection, but no one is able to purchase its output and live. Surely any Canadian who looked into this matter at all will know from experience that such is the case.

Again, the hon. member advocated a spirit of co-operation—national co-operation between the different classes. Now, this co-operation was never questioned so long as the agriculturist, like a faithful beast of burden, was carrying all the others on his back; but since he has lain down under the load the hon. member is crying to the government, "Give me a pair of new spurs." Failing that he says, "Give me a sword, for now I would slay thee," as Balaam said to his ass.

The hon. member deploras the fact that our iron ore is going to the United States, but he never dare hint—at the expense of spoiling his own argument—the reason why. I will tell him the reason. Those for whose benefit protection has been created have so driven the cost of working that ore altogether out of line with world prices that they themselves have no longer any confidence in their own policy, and instead of investing Canadian liquid funds in the Dominion, these funds are being remitted to other countries for investment in concerns competitive to our own. Then these patriots cry out at election times, "No truck or trade with the Yankees or any other foreign country." This surely is a new brand of patriotism.

The hon. member advocates that a protective wall be placed around the British Empire. What does he mean? This is nothing more than a protective scheme to embrace the whole British Empire and place its inhabitants at the mercy of an empire-wide combine,—similar to the combine which the people of Canada have been in the grip of for the last forty-five years. I say this country needs a