

breadth of Ontario. The farmers and the Patrons of Industry—and I hold I am the representative of the Patrons on the floor of this House, although I do not belong to the organization—will not support the Government unless they make tariff reductions. Further east, it will also be found, that the Government cannot obtain the support of the Patrons unless the tariff is largely reduced. Let me state what occurred in New Brunswick. At a meeting of the St. John Board of Trade, held on February 7th, a committee on the tariff, presided over by the chairman of the Conservative party in that province, reported that the tariff must be reduced. From Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and every other province, there is a similar report. I understand that the recent election in Nova Scotia was run almost entirely on the question of tariff reform. Are the people going to obtain from this Government that justice to the farming class which they demand? The hon. gentlemen opposite have no intention of granting it. When the committee representing the Government were travelling through the country, they would have allowed the farmers to have appeared before them and made plain statements, without an attempt being made to gainsay their utterances, if they had desired to extend justice to the agricultural class. Why did the members of that committee sit in secret conclave when they were hearing the manufacturers, while they heard the farmers in open meeting? It was done simply that those hon. gentlemen might be able to show how smart they were when they had a simple-hearted farmer to question regarding the working of the National Policy. I notice that certain resolutions were passed by the Manufacturers Association when they met the Minister of Trade and Commerce at Toronto. Let me quote a statement to show what they consider should be the fate of any one advocating a tariff reform measure, such as I am advocating to-day. I observe here an hon. gentleman who was at that meeting, and no doubt he concurred in the sentiment given utterance to with respect to anybody who would ask a reduction in the tariff. Mr. E. Gurney said that any man who went on the stump to advocate a change from the present policy to one which had no bottom in it, was nothing more than an anarchist, and the people would have to rise against anarchists and hang the lot. So the farmers of Ontario as a body will have to be hanged, and that will be found a difficult job, because they are all advocating tariff reduction, and not merely tariff reduction, but that this protective system shall be abolished. I heard the First Minister from his place no later than yesterday say that he had yet to hear the first statement made by any public man in the United States that the financial stringency had been at all brought about by the National Policy or the protective sys-

tem. I will quote a statement by Congressman Bryant with regard to the effect of protection in the United States. It is as follows:—

Protection violates international law, human and divine, by prohibiting trade among the families of the men, thus denying the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It has driven industry to want, beggary and starvation; it has forced virtue, dressed in rags, to insanity; it has driven mothers with their infants at their breasts, from the cottage hearth, starving, into the winter's blast, and denied to the husband and father work necessary to support his family; it has made thousands of millionaires and millions of tramps, both a curse to society; it has filled the prisons with criminals and the churches with hypocrites; it has driven millions of honest labourers to the soup-houses, to be fed in the name of charity with the products of their own labour, out of which they were robbed; it makes merchandise of men, slaves of women, beggars of children and outcasts of all, and then retains power by bribery and fraud; it is the author of all the sweating system in the world, where women and children sweat blood to be coined into money to satisfy the greed of mammon, and it forges the promise of God into a lie, and we do see, the seed of the righteous "begging bread," the divine promise to the contrary notwithstanding.

There is no one but must admit that protection has had that effect to a great extent in this country. Will any man stand up and tell me that any Government could legislate in a manner to make rich the whole inhabitants of any country? I do not ask that any privileges should be granted to the farmers of this country, but I do ask that they shall be relieved of the burdens that have been unduly placed upon their shoulders. All that I ask is: That all classes of the community shall be placed in a position so as to reap the full rewards of their honest labour. I hold, Sir, that no farmer and no workman gets the full reward of his labour in a highly protected country such as Canada is. I hold that, to-day, the farmer for every purchase that he makes only gets \$100 of goods when he spends \$130 for them, and especially is that the case in the class of goods which is manufactured and sold to the people in this country. The Minister of Agriculture when he went to the North-west did not show to the people the true condition of affairs; but many of the people there know what that condition is, and the Government got a taste of what the North-west will do during the last election of Winnipeg, when my friend who sits behind (Mr. Martin) was returned as an opponent of theirs. That is only a sample of what the North-west will do when she gets the opportunity. She has lived on promise long enough, but she will not be fooled any longer. The farmers of the province of Ontario were fooled last election when the Government told them that they dissolved the House before the natural life of Parliament expired