

has been interfered with, they have been discriminated against, and they are justified in complaining. But as everyone knows, the ultimate consumer is the real sufferer in the case; and in this case it simply means an increase in the price of the products we buy.

Before leaving home I made inquiries and I found that the price of ploughshares has already gone up; and the dealer tells us that it is because of the duty. In other words, the farmer has to pay the difference in the price. In my letter to the Minister of National Revenue I made an appeal to him to consider the condition in which the farmer finds himself to-day. Why should they insist on putting a still further burden on the farmer's back? Why do they insist on making him pay more for these implements which he must use than he would otherwise? It is not only the fact that we are paying increased prices, but there is the question of convenience to be considered. There are many implements in the west that are not now sold by the dealer, and through these companies we can get repairs for them which we should not otherwise be able to get. That is the situation that confronts us. I think, therefore, that I am justified in making this protest against the action of the department in imposing this burden upon us.

I am quite satisfied that hon. members opposite who come from the west realize just as keenly as I do the injustice of what has been done; I have no doubt that they realize that their own position has been prejudiced. It was said in the election of 1926 that Arthur Meighen had not given his western supporters a feather to fly with. The present Prime Minister is hanging a millstone around the neck of his supporters every day he is in office, and they know it.

It would be interesting to know just who are the beneficiaries. It is the implement manufacturers. I ask the Minister of National Revenue to tell this house upon whose representations this action has been taken. I do not suppose he will, so I will supply the information. It was done because of the representations made to the department by Mr. Thomas Russell of the Massey-Harris company. There is good reason to believe that representations were also made by other Canadian firms. I think the Canadian people should know just who are their friends in regard to matters of this kind.

I shall not delay the house any further as the matters referred to in the speech from the throne undoubtedly will be debated at greater length at some future date. I hope that when the agreements entered into at the

[Mr. Brown.]

Imperial conference are before the house we will be able to find in them something which will promote not only imperial harmony and good will but give a lead to the nations of the world as to those steps which must be taken if we are to have better international relations, if we are to reach that day when war will be banished and we shall live together as men and women made in the image of the Divine. So long as these trade wars continue there can be no possibility of peace among the nations of the world.

Mr. JEAN-FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, my first words shall be to tell you how happy I am to see you presiding over this house to-day and the pleasure I have in observing your present good state of health. I desire to congratulate the mover (Mr. Davies) and the seconder (Mr. Laurin) of the address in reply on the very commendable speeches they made yesterday. I congratulate also the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) who is such a true representative of the farmers of the west and who made such an interesting and practical speech this afternoon. Yesterday my hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) analyzed with great skill the speech from the throne. He deserves great merit for having shown that this speech contains very little detail about things which should be done at once and which unfortunately will have to be delayed. No doubt we will have other opportunities to discuss the agreements arrived at during the recent Imperial conference, and in due course I intend to express the views of my electors on this matter.

In the meantime may I say a few words in connection with a matter which is of great concern to the people whom I have the honour to represent, I refer to Canadian National railway matters. I should first like to read an excerpt from the Canadian National Railways magazine of February, 1931. This article contains a résumé of the speech made by Sir Henry Thornton during a dinner in Montreal which was attended by the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion). The article reads as follows:

In his opening remarks, Sir Henry Thornton voiced the regrets of the two directors who were unavoidably absent from the gathering. The occasion, he said, provided an opportunity for the officers and members of the cooperative committees, now holding their meetings in Montreal, to meet the new directors and the Minister of Railways. Speaking of the Minister of Railways, Sir Henry said: "I should like to take this opportunity of saying that I have served under a number of ministers of the crown, but I have never served under one for whom I had more real affection, as the present incumbent of that post."