

Iron or steel fittings for iron or steel pipes of every description, and iron or steel rods, 30 per cent.

It will be seen that all these things in which the farmers are particularly interested remain as high as ever, although these gentlemen were to have given us a much lower tariff. One of the things we attach great importance to in the North-west is coal oil. We expected to get coal oil free. Is there any chance of it being free? We have a reduction of a cent a gallon, and my hon. friend who represents one of the constituencies in Manitoba says in his paper that the arrangement about tanks means practically the cutting of the duty in two. The hon. gentleman must know better than that; for it means nothing of the kind. The former duty on coal oil was about 100 per cent, according to the calculation of one of the hon. gentlemen opposite, I think the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). On that basis, five cents per gallon is equal to 83 per cent at least. And this is a duty on what? On what the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) and the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) declared to be a necessary of life. Then, Mr. Speaker, the duty on lumber remains. When I was advocating, in 1895, that the lumber duty should be reduced, I had the support of the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Edwards). This is what that hon. gentleman said:

The last item, sawed boards, was discussed, I think, last session. At that time, if I remember rightly, lumber, tongued and grooved, was put on the free list, because it was considered desirable, in the interests of the settlers in the North-west that it should come in free. I do not think that condition has since changed, and I see no reason whatever why the duty should now be imposed because of the construction the Americans have placed upon their tariff in this respect.

And he goes on to say, further:

I hold that it is for the advantage of the consumers of lumber in Manitoba and the North-west Territories that tongued and grooved lumber from the United States should come in free of duty. The arguments that were used last session were in favour of lumber planed on one side or on two sides, coming in free of duty, but not lumber tongued and grooved. It is true, the importer makes a small gain from the less amount of freight he pays when he imports that class of lumber; but the lumber, after it comes to this country, has to be sent to a planing mill to be tongued and grooved, and it costs the consumers about as much to have it tongued and grooved as to have it planed and tongued and grooved also.

And the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) said on that occasion:

It seems to me, Sir, that the people of the North-west ought to be considered a little in this matter, as well as my hon. friend, Mr. Speaker, or any other parties who are engaged in the manufacture of lumber, and the view taken by

Mr. DAVIN.

my hon. friend from Russell (Mr. Edwards), is both more politic and more generous. We have spent enormous sums of money to promote settlement in the North-west, and everybody knows that this will only be taken advantage of practically by the settlers in Manitoba or in the North-west, where lumber is, or used to be, sold at a very heavy price. I doubt extremely whether any revenue will be derived from it, and I also doubt the wisdom of bringing any alterations in the tariff at this period of the session.

When my hon. friend the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) was up west, and the hon. Controller of Customs (Mr. Paterson), I think, with him, the farmers went before them in the city of Winnipeg and laid bare their claims. They asked to have the duty taken off coal oil; they asked to have the duty taken off implements; and they asked to have the duty taken off lumber. But one farmer went before the commission who seemed to understand them. I think his name was Fleming.

Mr. HUGHES. Where was he? Was he one of those who were paid to go?

Mr. DAVIN. I do not know about that. He said: I think I understand what you are going to do. I have been a Liberal all my life and have always supported you, but I may never support you any more; I will not if you do what I think you are going to do. You are going to act very much like two young surgeons when it was decided to amputate a leg. But the patient hollered so much that the young surgeons said: They would have to take off the leg in detail and would begin with the big toe; they would not dare to take off the leg. The most that these gentlemen have done so far, in the way of removing the gangrened leg they talk so much about, is to cut off one of the toes. Another thing that was asked for was that the duty should be taken off iron. I have always been in favour of iron being free.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I have always been in favour of it. Some hon. gentleman says "Hear, hear." I may say that I was in favour of a course that was consistent in regard to this matter. In the Bill before us, you have protection by tariff and protection by bonus. That is inconsistent. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce quoted John Stuart Mill. There is a quotation he might have made from Mill. Mill said of a certain measure, that "it made a false profession of nice adaptation to political economy." This Bill if it makes any profession of that sort makes a false profession. In 1879, when Sir Leonard Tilley had proposed his tariff, after the House had risen he went around to visit the manufacturers of this country. I wrote a letter to him,