

Mr. DOMVILLE. Not ex-King's, but for King's.

Mr. FOSTER. The Patrons ask that workmen's tools should be made free. They have not been made free—they are taxed. They also asked that farm implements be made free. They have been kept at the same rate. The only reduction the farmers have obtained on farm implements was the large reduction we gave in 1894, when the duty was reduced from 35 to 20 per cent, and it is kept at 20 per cent to-day despite the request of the Patrons of Industry. But while they have kept the tax up on farm implements, they are taking good care to look after those "scoundrels great, and scoundrels small," by giving them reduced iron and reduced raw material. Fence wire, they have made free. It did not bear a protective duty; it bore simply a revenue tariff rate. Hon. gentlemen opposite have, therefore, not gone against the principle of protection; they have simply dropped a revenue tariff item. As regards binder twine, the same remarks apply. Twelve and a half per cent was the lowest possible special rate that could be put on under a revenue tariff, for unenumerated articles bore 12 per cent. It has been thrown out, but this did not include the principle of protection. It was a low revenue tariff rate, and hon. gentlemen opposite have given the farmers exactly the reduction we gave in 1894, a reduction of 12½ per cent.

Mr. TAYLOR. Not until Hobbs of London has unloaded what he has on hand.

Mr. FOSTER. You must always take care of the boy. Coal oil was to be free. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries stumped the country from one end to the other on a coal oil can, and on the top of it he has elevated the percentage of the protection away up in the hundreds. He has gained many Patrons and farmers' votes, because they put confidence in him, that when he became a powerful member of a powerful Government, his pledge would be carried out and coal oil would be made free. Is it made free, and how much of the high percentage have they shaved off? They have taken off one cent a gallon, and coal oil is left very high still.

Iron was asked to be free by the Patrons. It has not been made free. It has been lowered, but for every dollar that has been lowered on the basic irons, there has been a bounty by the Liberal party endorsing a policy which for all these years they have fulminated against; and they have made the bounty on iron higher. That bounty system, which, if anything, is gall and wormwood to absolute free traders, is the system which they have adopted.

Corn they have made free. Seven and a half cents per bushel has been taken off, and whilst they have pleased some of the Patrons and some of the feeders, they will

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find that they have not benefited others who look to the coarse grains which they grow for a large proportion of the income from their farms, and who will find that free corn very largely interferes with it.

And finally, the Patrons asked for a tariff for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall upon the luxuries and not upon the necessities of life. The answer of the Government has been given to them in the tariff. Every line and word of it is, first, a protection tariff, nearly as high on the average and higher on some items than the tariff of the Liberal-Conservative party. Now, Sir, have the Patrons a cause against my hon. friends opposite? The Liberals have in the campaign curried favour with the Patrons, subscribed to their doctrines, flattered them that they were at one in the carrying out of their aims; and, when they came into power, when the very first opportunity is afforded them of carrying out their pledges, not one single pledge that was asked by the Patrons and in reference to which the present Government stated that the platform of the Patrons and the Liberals were alike; not one single pledge has been honoured, not one important abatement of the protective tariff asked has been given, and the only thing that has been done to drop three revenue tariff items to a low rate.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Carried.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Domville) has all he can carry.

Mr. DOMVILLE. The hon. member for York has more than he can carry.

Mr. FOSTER. What else has been done in this tariff? It was asked by the Patrons, and it was a plank of the Liberal platform, through and through, that luxuries should be taxed to the utmost limit, and that they should be the first thing upon which a revenue tariff should be levied. What has happened? I have been speaking up to this time of the principle of the main tariff that these hon. gentlemen have made the tariff of this country. It will be moderated in so far as they can get reciprocity treaties with countries unknown, or with countries which to-day do not have them. But the tariff is a high protective tariff, according to the thinking of hon. gentlemen on the other side. They have raised by a very slight amount the duties upon luxuries, but in their proposition for a reciprocal tariff which they declare they hope to carry out to perfection, they have made a piece of machinery which will take one-fourth the duty off these luxuries. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, shakes his head in dissent, but let me tell him this. To-day, upon silverware we have 25 per cent. It was increased by hon. gentlemen opposite in the main tariff to 30 per cent. But if they are honest in carrying out the reciprocal idea, they have made a provision for taking one-fourth