

of 1 cent a gallon. It is true that some regulations have been made by which coal oil may be taken in vessel tanks. But this will not give one cent advantage to the people of the North-west. It may give an advantage to the people of the maritime provinces, but the farmer of Ontario and the farmer of the North-west will be forced to pay as high prices as they have paid in the past for coal oil. The hon. gentleman went on to deal with the question of the farmer's interests and he brought up the subject of corn. I am here to say that in my humble opinion it is not in the interest of the farmer of Ontario to remove the duty on corn coming from the United States. It may be an advantage to the feeders of cattle, but it will not be an advantage to the farmers as a rule, because the farmers are not sellers of beef, but sellers of coarse grains. But the hon. gentleman lightly and airily says: All you have to do is to ship your oats and coarse grains to England and feed your cattle on American corn. The hon. gentleman must know that the greater the quantity of any article forced on the market at any time the greater must be the reduction in price, and the farmer who has coarse grains to sell will, by the competition of American corn—for it can be landed at points in Canada at from 17 cents to 20 cents per bushel during the summer months—be forced to accept a less price for his coarse grains. With the Ontario farmer the problem is not so much in what he has to pay for any article; the problem with him is how he will procure better prices for the articles he has to sell.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald, Huron), dealt at some length with the woollen goods duties. I did not follow him in all respects, but I have to say that the farmers of Ontario and the farmers of other provinces will be vitally interested in the changes made in the duties on woollen goods. The other night when the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) was dealing with the Budget he drew a pleasant pastoral picture of Canada one hundred years ago. He longed for the days of stage-coaches and little mills at the cross-roads. He painted a picture that, to be complete, required only the presence of a highwayman. The hon. gentleman said that the world moves, but he forgot to say that it does not move backwards. If we in Canada are to move with the world we must move forward. I am glad to say that hitherto the movement has not been backward but forward, and under the defensive policy we adopted eighteen years ago, we have had the satisfaction of seeing the mechanic of a few years ago develop into the manufacturer of today and the small manufacturer of a few years ago grow until he is in control of immense works. But the hon. gentleman expressed, and I believe he was sincere in it, great regard for the small woollen men.

Let me tell him that I have assurances from men in woollen mills that the passage of the policy now before the House will result in the closing up of every small woollen mill such as he pictured the other night. Take, for instance, the matter of coarse tweed manufactured in the mills. In my constituency there are four such mills. I have received from men in the business strong and solemn protests against the change proposed in the tariff in this regard. Take an article that weighs two pounds to the yard. Under the old tariff there was a duty of 5 cents a pound, making a straight duty of 10 cents per yard. The ad valorem duty in addition would be 12½ cents, being 25 per cent on the value which would be 50 cents. This made a protective duty on this article of 22½ cents per yard. Under the tariff now proposed, if it goes into force, instead of a duty of 22½ cents per yard, there will be a duty of only 13½ cents per yard. I say that the small woollen mills which are scattered all over the country cannot exist under such a duty and will be under necessity of closing up. Now, let me ask what effect will this have upon the farming community. Hon. gentlemen who are conversant with this business must know that these mills are the best customers the Canadian farmer has for his coarse wool, which is not wanted in England and which cannot be exported to the United States by reason of the hostile tariff of 12 cents a pound. I call the attention of the Finance Minister earnestly to that point and I tell him that by lowering the duty on this line of goods he is imperilling the life of every factory of that nature throughout the country.

The duty on wheat has been reduced as also has the duty on flour. The result must be that we shall have the mortification of seeing introduced into this country year by year large quantities of American flour. This must result to the detriment of the Canadian farmer. But, while these hon. gentlemen have stated that they are giving the farmer fair play all round, they have frequently said that fair-play means to give him advantages in the articles he has to buy. I would ask the hon. Finance Minister: Where is the reduction on agricultural implements? Reapers and binders are the articles which the farmers wish to purchase, and the duty of 20 per cent on these remains. On every hustings in Ontario the farmers were told of the Masseys' and these other large combines having been made wealthy under the fostering influence of the National Policy. Hon. gentlemen opposite assured the farming community that if they came into power they would give the farmers great advantage by removing the duties on iron and coal. The hon. leader of the Government (Mr. Laurier) stated without reservation that the duty on coal would be removed. The duty is not removed, but the duty on iron