

Speaking of protection as it applies to the farmer, I admit that the western farmer is in one position and the eastern farmer in another. This farmers' movement certainly has a legitimate function provided it is not for class purposes. From the time of Confederation, 1867, until the present moment, I have never known a Cabinet of Canada, whether Liberal or Conservative, to have among its members more than one farmer; and I have known of many which had not that one. During all that time the rural population of Canada was possibly 40 per cent of the whole; and if the farmer had been recognized by the several Governments in proportion to his percentage of the population, and if his knowledge had been benefited by and his advice taken, possibly this apparently sudden uprising of the farmers of Canada would not have been. On the other hand, honourable gentlemen, the farmer of Canada stood in his own way, and in his own light. Over and over again, he had the opportunity to select a man of his own calling in many a constituency to represent him, but the lawyer or the doctor or the merchant or some other gentleman came in his stead supported by the farmers' vote. So, if he has not had the representation in the past that he should have had, it is his own fault because he did not utilize his voting power.

While all that is true, honourable gentlemen, it does not give any set of farmers, be they eastern or western men, the privilege of class representation. The honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat has gone a long way in an effort to persuade this House that no harm is meant—that no legislation will be introduced that will injure the industrial or investing interests of the country. I presume that is what the honourable gentleman wishes us to understand. But I say, honourable gentlemen, that no material reduction can be made in the tariff of 22 or 23 per cent that we have to-day without injuring some of the industries and investors of the Dominion of Canada. The farmer of Eastern Canada enjoys protection; the farmer of the West enjoys protection, although the honourable gentleman does not know it. Take the eastern part of Canada; take the eastern part of the United States, and take the Eastern Townships from which I come. Without protection would the value of the farms in Eastern Canada compare as they do with the value of the farms in the Eastern States? For while you can buy a farm in the Eastern United

States for from \$1,800 to \$2,000, you cannot buy one in Compton of the same size and as well situated for less than \$8,000 or \$10,000. Why is that? That is because the United States is a country of 110,000,000 or 120,000,000 people. The United States is a country in which the meat production is all in the hands of half-a-dozen large concerns, and they have driven the producer of the eastern farm away from his home; they have sold beef and pork and the products thereof in all the cities and towns of the Eastern States at a lower price than those products can be produced in Maine, Vermont, or New Hampshire. They have ruined the retail trader and butcher. At one time the fat—the butter and the cheese—for Newfoundland was furnished by Eastern Canada. What happened? Chicago, 1,000 miles farther west than we are, drove us from the Newfoundland market; and I say that if Chicago and those great interests can drive those Canadian products out of Newfoundland, they can drive them out of the Eastern Townships, if you lower the tariff that protects the farmers of Quebec.

The honourable gentleman speaks of the farmers of the West. In our country they are described as the miners of the West—they have to mine the soil, not to farm it. Many of the farmers of the West come there to stay; many come to go. Hundreds of thousands are attracted by the low price of land and the opportunity to sell it at a bigger price. They are not permanent residents. They should not have a voice in the future national policy of this country. They own the Grain Growers, my honourable friend says; they are the Grain Growers, and the Grain Growers alone are represented by the Progressive party in the two Houses of Parliament. Mr. Crerar, who leads the Grain Growers in another place, is the hired man, and always has been the hired man of the co-operative organization. He gets, someone says, \$15,000 a year for being faithful to them, and he gets \$4,000 a year for being faithful to Canada—and if he is going to be honest as a man and earn his money he will earn \$15,000 for being faithful to them and will let Canada take care of itself. That is a fair business proposition. If he wanted to come here as an independent member of Parliament, if he wanted to stand on the floor of the House of Commons and speak to this great nation of ours, I say that if he represented that great element of progress which my honourable friend has re-

Hon. Mr. POPE.