

refer. The hon. gentleman is a doubter who has never had ground for his doubts. He is worse than Thomas, for Thomas, when he got grounds for belief, believed. He is worse than Cassandra, for she prophesied the truth and was doomed not to be believed. But my hon. friend is not only not believed, but time mocks at his prophesies [cheers.] Therefore when he tells us this tariff may not be carried out that fact alone—even if we did not know the men on the Treasury benches; even if we did not know that no rational men could propose the policy which the Minister of Finance has proposed, and then after an election go back on it—the bare fact that it is the hon. member for South Oxford who doubts is sufficient to warrant us in coming to the conclusion, safe and sound that carried out it will be in every detail. I appeal to my hon. friend from North York [Mr. Mulock], who took an interest—it is true he came late in the day into the field of labor, but late as he came, we acknowledge his exertions and he will have his reward as though he came in at an early hour—I appeal to him whether we have not got a good deal. I asked myself, when I began to analyze this tariff, what does the farmer get? First, he gets a reduction of 15 per cent. on his implements. You have therefore at present a duty of but 20 per cent. on these and with the prospect of cheap iron in the States, I believe it will be found that the competition from there will probably be just as free and just as strong as if the duty had been entirely removed. I will come to the reasons by and by why no rational man could have expected the entire removal of that duty. Then we have lumber free, which is a tremendous boon to the North-West and Manitoba. We had a combine there. We had 20 per cent on lumber, which was paid by every man who built a house. Now, that lumber is free, and that is an immense boon. Not only that, but the laths and tar paper and everything that goes into the building of houses—which, from the standpoint of the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock), is of course a necessary of life, though not what is usually called a necessary of life among political

economists—have had the duty entirely taken off. What has been done in the matter of sugar is, I believe, also a great boon to the farmers of the North-West. I will not trust myself to discuss that question, but will do what I believe I have never done before in this House. I will read from a newspaper article to strengthen my position. In making this exception in this case, I shall tell the House the reason why. The newspaper is the Mail. It so happens that Mr. Bunting, who used formerly to have a seat in this House, and who manages this paper, is, we all know, an authority on sugar. What he does not know about sugar is not worth knowing. That he is thoroughly posted, I have personal knowledge, because I was once on the editorial staff of that newspaper, before and after Mr. Bunting was connected with it. In this article, Mr. Bunting says that the greatest advantages to the consumer will result from these sugar duties, that yellow refined sugar cannot fail to be cheaper, that the trader will have a great advantage under it; and he goes on to show that a great boon has been conferred on consumers, and that the changes should have an expanding effect on the consumption of sugar during the coming fruit season. I have given these as some of the larger items. There are twenty-seven items in the tariff relating specially to the farmers—tar paper, axle grease, whips, axes, scythes, hay knives, threshers separators, buckthorn fencing, hubs and spokes, felloes, etc., and for the cowboys, jiggers, stirrups, saddle trees, cheap Morgan trees, etc., etc., free instead of 10 per cent. So that, sir, when you add to that what has been done, you already have a set off to the 20 per cent. that remains on the implements and for the half of the old duty that remains on barbed wire.

Lumber free; barb wire  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ c; tarred paper from 30 to 20 per cent. (old  $\frac{3}{4}$ c. per lb.); axle grease from 27 to 25 per cent. (old 1c. per lb.); whips from 46 to 35 per cent. (old 50c. per doz. and 30 per cent.); axes, scythes, hay knives, from \$2 per dozen and 20 per cent. to 35 per cent.; portable machines, threshers and separators from 35 to 30 per cent.; buckthorn