

—containing the report of an interview with Mr. H. W. Hutchinson—

Mr. Hutchinson is a life-long Liberal, a man no doubt anxious to cast suspicion upon any act performed by the Conservative Government and ready to raise agitation or ill-feeling amongst the farmers, so as to make them dissatisfied. This is the man whom the hon. member (Mr. Buchanan) quotes in this House as an authority.

—vice-president and managing director of the John Deer Plough Company—

an American institution. Then the hon. member for Medicine Hat goes on to quote the following language from Mr. Hutchinson:

The prairie farmers will, of course, be called on to pay the duty. We have been already notified by Canadian manufacturers that prices will be increased to us and we have already begun to prepare a new price list for the sale of our commodities. On every walking plough there will be an increase in the price paid of from \$1 to \$2; on every sulky plough an increase of \$4; on every drill an increase of \$5.

Later on the hon. member (Mr. Buchanan) quotes Mr. Hutchinson as saying:

On every gang plough an increase of \$6; on every wagon an increase of \$7, and on every disc a increase of \$8.

This is a quotation by the hon. member (Mr. Buchanan) from an interview given by Mr. Hutchinson, the agent of an American manufacturing concern, and the inference he intended to leave on the House was that the Canadian manufacturers had increased their prices on farm implements. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that on examination it will be found that the Canadian manufacturers have not increased the price of these goods since this tariff came down. If there have been any increases—they are very small, and I will cite them to the House later—they were made months before the tariff was thought of, and just in the ordinary regulation of the prices of the different machines. I have here a letter from the Cockshutt Plow Company, and the Cockshutt Plow Company owes it to itself to make this explanation.

I hold no brief for this company; but I am glad to be put in possession of facts that warrant me in saying in this House that the Canadian manufacturers were too patriotic to take advantage of the circumstances in order to increase the price of those ploughs, when they might have done so. This letter, which was written after the hon. member for West Kent (Mr. McCoig) spoke, reads as follows:

Mr. McCoig has, I notice, been making a statement in the House from our "Private and Confidential" lists in which he states we have advanced our prices for this season. Mr. McCoig being an implement man knows that each year a price list is issued (ours appearing in December) with such changes as are rendered necessary by the cost of production.

This list that was complained of was made up in December, 1914.

He saw fit to give only the increases and not the decreases.

As a matter of fact the ploughs that he named were advanced about 50 cents each, and not on account of the tariff, but to meet increased cost. These ploughs he referred to are a type that are sold in Eastern Canada and are not suitable for prairie use, and not one single type of these ploughs suitable for Canadian trade is made in the United States. As an implement man Mr. McCoig knows this, or else he does not know his business.

He goes on to say:

The Maple Leaf gang he refers to was not advanced in price—last year it was quoted without straightener. This year it is quoted with straightener at \$1 more, so here also he is mistaken.

That explains the dollar increase in the cost of the gang plough.

The Ontario Footlift gang plough to which he refers is a new and improved design, and appears in our list for the first time, last year's pattern having been discarded.

He also in his speech infers that on May 1, our prices will again be advanced 5 per cent. How does he know? Who told him? We certainly did not, and we have already publicly stated our prices had been made for the season and would stand, so Mr. McCoig is wrong again.

This is an answer to the hon. gentleman who has been trying to make it appear that the Canadian manufacturers have been taking advantage of the situation in order to raise the prices of their ploughs to the farmers.

Let me give some of the reductions that have been made: Grain binders, 4.5 per cent; corn binders, 1.7 per cent; S.D. hay rakes, 4 per cent; hay tedders, 3 per cent; seed drills, 1.3 per cent; No. 2 cultivators, 1.6 per cent; No. 5 cultivators, 10 per cent; No. 3 disc harrows (16x16), 8 per cent; lever drag harrows, 3.4 per cent; two-way sulky ploughs (2B), 7 per cent; two-way sulky ploughs (1B), 13 per cent; gasoline engines, 7 per cent to 13 per cent, according to size.

The increases are: Reapers, 5 per cent; land rollers, 3 per cent; 16-tooth cultivators, 3 per cent; footlift sulky plough, 6 per cent. On 21 types of walking ploughs listed, 9 were increased 5 per cent; 1 was increased 5½ per cent; 1 was increased 10 per cent; and 10 remained the same.