

to our principal crop, wheat, we have a great deal with which to contend. There are present here some men who are Manitoba wheat farmers, and they will not dispute the statement that had it not been for what were regarded as high prices for wheat, many of the farmers would have had to leave their farms, because for various reasons it would have been absolutely impossible for them to make a living. We in the West have to contend with a great deal of dry weather. We used to suffer to some extent from frost, but that does not affect us so much now. The great difficulty in that country is the lack of rain, and in the last two years we have had to contend with something we never experienced before, namely the wind storms that blew out the crops. I think that the hon. member from Manitou (Hon. Mr. Sharpe) will agree with me that millions of dollars were spent in buying grain not only for re-seeding, but for the third sowing. The tremendous winds we have out there were blowing the grain out of the ground. Therefore, as I have said, it was only the high price of our wheat that enabled the farmers to stand the test.

Of course there are places in the West where money has been made. Some people have been very fortunate. In 1915 the crop was excellent; I think we had about 300,000,000 bushels of wheat. Last year in the three provinces the yield was about 192,000,000 bushels.

There is no need for me to labour this aspect further. The point I desire to make is that those three provinces have been entirely dependent upon wheat growing and cattle raising. To-day it does not pay to raise cattle. That is true not only of the West. I read yesterday a statement made by Mr. Morrison, secretary of the farmer's party, that there is very little export of cattle from Ontario to-day. There was at one time a very large export.

It was, I think, in the three prairie provinces that the farmers' organization originated.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Do I understand the honourable gentleman to say that it does not pay to raise cattle in the West?

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: It is said that cattle raising does not pay, because of the price that the farmers can get for their grain and because of the long, cold winters; and I could give the honourable gentleman a wonderful illustration regarding Alberta, if I had time. Without fear of contradiction I say that there is not much money in cattle raising in the Northwest to-day.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: It is not necessary to house the cattle in the winter.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: In Alberta they must be housed.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Conditions have changed since I have been there.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: I may make some mistakes, but I am trying to be fair, as well as careful, in stating what I believe to be the facts.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: My hon. friend does not undertake to say that in Alberta range cattle are housed.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: I am speaking of the farmers in Alberta. They house their cattle, do they not? I think that statement is correct. I am not referring to the ranges.

Now, what is it that has driven the farmers to form a party? I know that the statement I am about to make will not have the sympathy of this House. My data may not be absolutely correct; hence I may be wrong in my conclusions; but I am of the opinion that this agrarian movement in the West has been caused by what is called "big business"—the big industries of the other provinces. Of that I am firmly convinced. The big interests have not been satisfied with fair profits. As to the question of fiscal policy, the farmers of the West believe that the tariff is too high. Now, I am not a free trader. The leader of the Farmers' party is, I believe, Hon. Mr. Crerar, and he is reported to have said he would sweep away the tariff wall in its entirety. I believe he has not been correctly reported. Of course we must always say we have not been correctly reported when we do not like what we have said. A despatch from Woodstock, N.B., states that Mr. Crerar—

—advocated the entire sweeping away of the protection wall and the production of a revenue from direct taxation as a means of replacing the revenue which would be needed to carry on the business of the country, declaring that protection conferred a special privilege upon industry, and that Canada should only be making the things which she can make cheapest, and then enter into unrestricted world trade.

I do not think Mr. Crerar said that. What Mr. Crerar personally thinks, I am not prepared to say, but I am pretty well prepared to state what his first lieutenant says. Before coming down here I spent several hours with the man whom I consider to be his first lieutenant, and he states that they are not asking for free trade. "But," I told him, "You are talking about class legislation." I have no