

list. They say that the mining industry in Canada ought to be encouraged. Our basic industry, of course, is agriculture, but we have other great resources in our forests, our fisheries, and our mines, which have hardly been scratched as yet. The main representation in this memorandum is that the implements the prospector uses should be put on the free list, or at all events should be in the list of items on which there is only a low tariff. The hardest stage of mining, they represent, is at the beginning; it is then the most encouragement is needed. It will be understood that after the failure of many mines in different parts of the country which were represented to the public as splendid prospects, it is rather difficult to get the necessary capital to exploit a really good find. Are we to discourage those who really have a good mining prospect, from developing it? I think that the minister should take these representations into consideration, if not now, at all events when the general revision of the tariff is under consideration, when the minister will no doubt hear the proper representatives of the mining interests.

The prospecting stage is the most difficult one in the mining industry. The mine, first of all is acquired. Then it is searched and prospected and the implements for drilling and for finding the gold, silver, oil, shale, or whatever it may be, is put into motion. It is at this particular moment that the prospector ought to be helped. He has had difficulty in getting the necessary capital to prospect the mine. The Government should help him in getting his implements at a low rate. I am told that there have been many failures in the country not because the prospects were not favourable but because of the enormous expenditure caused by the high tariff and by the fact that the manufacturers add the tariff to the price of the machinery. The miners become discouraged and stop prospecting. We must view favourably the mining industry. There is something of a venture in it but ultimately the country derives great benefit out of that venture. Once more I ask my hon. friend, if not presently, at least when he takes up the tariff revision, to consider the case of the prospectors. I regret not having this memorandum under my hand; it is in my office, but it gives specifically the articles which these prospectors would like to have placed, if not on the free list, at least, on a low tariff list.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: My hon. friend might send me the list of articles that he [Mr. Lemieux.]

has referred to. The tariff at present gives free admission to a very wide range of machinery and plant used in mining. I could mention half a dozen items embracing a very large number of such articles.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I will send the memorandum to my hon. friend.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I should think that a mere description of articles required by prospectors would not be proper to be embodied in the tariff. But if my hon. friend will send me a list I will consider it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I will do that.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: I desire to renew a question which I asked yesterday and which the minister said he would answer when the Bill was before the committee. My hon. friend then stated that he did not quite understand my question. I suppose it was my fault.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I could not hear my hon. friend

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: I shall have to go back to my native way of conveying my thoughts. The question is in regard to the reduction of freight on agricultural implements. The hon. gentleman has said that to afford a temporary relief to the farmers of the West he had obtained from the railway companies a reduction of freight on agricultural implements. The manager of a firm has applied to the officials of the Canadian National railways under the schedule of the new rates and he has been told that these rates will come into force only after the first of September next. That gentleman tells me that the larger proportion of the implements must be delivered to the farmers before that date to be of any value to them this present year. I would ask the hon. gentleman if the arrangement which has been entered into with the railway companies will only apply after September first.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: When I said I did not follow my hon. friend it was not because he was not expressing himself very clearly, as he always does, but because of the acoustic properties of this Chamber. I looked up Hansard and I understand from his remarks now, which I have heard, what he has in his mind. Most of the agricultural implements that will be sold this year have already been sent to the West. This arrangement was come to as of September 1st after consultation with the railways, and I may say that it was also broached to the manufacturers as to the date and September 1 was agreed upon. It is not