

that it was paid for by the manufacturers, and vested interests as against the masses of this country. But an article appeared in the Montreal 'Star,' which was copied by the Winnipeg 'Tribune,' in which they took up the side of the farmer. That was like some gentlemen on the other side, who before the reciprocity agreement had been entered into, and while they believed it was impossible to secure reciprocity in natural products, advocated such reciprocity, but when such an arrangement was actually made, they found an excuse to get out. The Montreal 'Star' found a way to get out. But what they now say, will not go down with the masses of this country, because the farmers represent 63 per cent of the population of Canada, and they must, and will be heard. And nobody will hear them more plainly than the men who represent rural counties in western Canada, when the tocsin is sounded for the next election. For my part, I believe it to be my duty to stand for that for which the people elected me. If I could not support this agreement conscientiously and fairly and honestly, it would be my duty, as a man, to get out and let some one else take my place who is more closely in touch with the people I represent. However, I will read this article in which the Montreal 'Star' stood up for the farmers. My western friends will notice that it is pretty pointed. Whether correct or incorrect, there are facts in it that it will be pretty hard for them to get over:

Where the tariff burdens the farmer, that item is immediately put on trial for its life. This country can stand a burden anywhere else more easily. Agriculture is our hope. It is the splendid agricultural opportunities of the west which are drawing to that section such excellent settlers. A mere chance to make a living will attract all the less desirable sort of immigrants we can stand—and probably far more. But after all, it is not so much population we want as fellow citizens up to the Canadian standard; and we can only secure this high grade of immigrant by making farming conditions superlatively attractive. New York can boast of its brokers and London can boast of its Lords; but Canada must be in a position to boast of its farmers. That is our prize product—our compelling lure to the best of the best nations.

And again they say:

Where they find railway or other corporations inclined to side-track their interests or ignore their just demands, they must tell any government that sits or ever shall sit at Ottawa that its only title to continued existence is its instant readiness to compel the possessors of public franchises to recognize that the public is the controlling partner in their business. The farmers are the masters of the situation; and, if they fail, the blame is theirs.

Mr. MOLLOY.

As I said a moment ago, the farmers represent 63 per cent of our population, and I do not believe that, organized, as they are, any corporate interest or any wildcat talk of annexation—which is the only defence offered by hon. gentlemen opposite—will sway the farmers from protecting and helping their own families, or cause them to vote for men who are diametrically opposed to their interests. Now, speaking of the grain of western Canada—

Mr. BLAIN. Would the hon. gentleman permit me a question? Did I understand him to make the statement that the article of the Montreal 'Star,' as it is found in other newspapers in Canada, was paid for, as an advertisement by the Manufacturers' Association?

Mr. MOLLOY. By members, by interests, opposed to a reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Molloy), be good enough to name—

Mr. MOLLOY. No, I will not

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh

Mr. MOLLOY. I do not wish any hon. member to feel that I am discourteous, and if I have hurt the hon. member's feelings, I apologize. But so far, I have never risen in this House to make a statement, except once, when I rose to a question of personal explanation, without being baited by hon. gentlemen on the other side. And I have never yet interrupted any speaker on that side of the House. I took a vow the first day I came here that, as long as I had a seat in this House, I would not interrupt any hon. member who was speaking.

Mr. STAPLES. I rise to a question of order. The hon. member (Mr. Molloy), said that he never rose to give offence or insult to hon. gentlemen on this side. Now, with his permission, I will ask him a question—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. That is not a point of order, and unless the hon. gentleman (Mr. Staples) has a point of order, I cannot hear him.

Mr. STAPLES. I can only say that, if the hon. gentleman takes offence, I am very sorry. I did not mean it in that way.

Mr. MOLLOY. I have endeavoured to point out from the farmers' point of view the desirability of an enlarged market for the western farmers' wheat. But there are other grains raised in western Canada besides wheat,—for example, oats. Last year, 42,000,000 bushels of oats were raised. But owing to the drought in western Canada, the crop was less on the average than for some years. The western oats are better,