

two handles. If protection is to be adopted as a policy, and all parties are to be protected, then we are the worse for the protection by the cost of protection itself. If, on the other hand, only certain classes are to be protected, I want to know what the classes are. To whom is the protection to apply? The hon. gentleman took a great deal of care to tell of his interest in the farmers. And, unfortunate man! he has his post office box crammed every day with letters from distressed farmers calling for protection. I only wish he would send me a dozen of them to read. It is very unfair that all the distressed farmers should go to the hon gentleman and never to myself. I represent one of the largest and richest farming constituencies in Canada, I believe. It is one of the largest in population and area, and one of the best farming districts, and yet I have not received one letter from any of my farming constituents complaining that we were not protecting them. The fact is, farmers in my county are an intelligent class. They know as much as my hon. friend from Kingston with reference to protection. The farmer knows that it is the merest sham thrown in to delude the people. He knows it is merely trying to coat over the pill with sugar. But surely my hon. friend will give the farmers of this country more credit than to imagine that a few honied phrases and pleasing expressions are sufficient to seduce them from a sound policy, and to induce them to adopt a protection policy. But the right hon. gentleman says it is a shame that the Government of the country should permit the United States to crowd their cereals into this market to the injury of our farmers. Does the right hon. gentleman pretend to say that it is possible to affect the price of wheat of these markets by wheat being sent from the United States. Does not my right hon. friend know very well that wheat comes here as merchandise, and makes us the richer by the carriage? What was our canal system constructed for? Was it merely to carry wheat from the borders of Lake Huron? Did he mean that every person who established a mill should grind Canadian wheat and Canadian wheat only? If

we adopt a protective system it would shut out all trade from other countries and compel us to trade with one another in any way we thought best.

The hon. gentleman did not venture to deal with another particular question; he did not tell the House, as he was bound to do, in what way we should provide a revenue if this policy were adopted. I was compelled, as a member of the Administration, to listen to every representation made to the Government during the last few months; and it gave me a great deal of pleasure to receive the deputations on this subject with courtesy and kindness. I hope that I gave no one any reason to complain in this regard. But it seems that the very fact that I did so receive these deputations is now turned against me, and I am told that, on this account, these deputations had good reason to believe that I intended to accede to their wishes; this is indeed a new doctrine. "But suppose that we do adopt this protective policy," I asked one of these deputations. "You represented a certain manufacture." I will not mention, for I do not desire to state names. He answered, "Yes." "Very well," I said, "if the duty is increased, what will be the result. Let us talk business regarding this matter. You want 7½ per cent more protection?" "Yes." "Well how will that benefit you?" "Oh!" he replied, "it will raise the price." "But how will it raise the price," I continued, "if they are now able to compete with you from the United States, unless you exclude their articles." "Ah!" he rejoined, "it will exclude their goods." "Oh! then you will destroy our revenue with respect to this article to the extent of \$175,000; how will you replace it?"

Sir, there was no answer; and this question the right hon. gentleman is bound to answer, if he is bound to give his policy to the House, as he seems obliged to do. So it will be with almost every article; to the extent a revenue tariff is abandoned, and a protection policy adopted, the revenue of the country is destroyed, and must be supplied in some other way. The hon. gentleman says that in the Act of Confederation he gave away the power of