

be paid. That amount, as has been pointed out, not only by myself but by others, is only some 17 or 18 cents more for each individual than it was in 1878. Now, the hon. member quoted Mr. Cleveland, and of course we are not surprised that he should go to President Cleveland for a definition of the Liberal policy, and he also went to the platform of 1893, as laid down in Ottawa. But, Mr. Speaker, we in the west have had the opportunity of judging what the policy of the Reform party would be, because we have had the honour of a visit from the leader of the Opposition. That hon. gentleman spoke at Winnipeg, Regina, Vancouver, and he laid down everywhere—especially in Winnipeg, at the gateway of the Territories—the proposition that his policy was freedom, civil and religious, and freedom of trade as they have it in England. We cannot have it now, he said, but we will aim at it, and we hope in time to get it. We had the same thing from my hon. friend who has just taken his seat (Mr. Davies). Well, Mr. Speaker, I shall not weary the House by explaining what free trade as practised in England means. You have only to go to the Reform almanac to find out what it means, and I shall not weary the House with quotations from English reports, showing what the farmers in England suffer from the system. I have here a report by a Mr. James Hope, in which he says :

The farmers also complained to me of the practice which has recently been adopted of taxing them on sums paid as fire insurance premiums. These sums ought certainly not to be taxed as income, and I consider the farmers' complaint on this head a most reasonable one. Another matter to which my attention was specially drawn, was the charging of inhabited house duty upon the assumed annual value of farm houses.

This is exactly what we told the farmers who were exposed to the siren voice of our Opposition friends : If you go in for free trade as it is in England, you will have to pay the inhabited house tax and the income tax, and all the other taxes which the farmers of England are protesting against. Another grievance is thus described on page 10 of the report by Mr. James Hope :

Another grievance which was prominently brought before me, was the principle upon which the income tax is assessed upon the supposed income of farmers, and the charging farmers' houses with the inhabited house duty.

And yet the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) told us that men in humble circumstances had to pay very little indeed in England. Why, one of the men of whom I have spoken complained bitterly that they had to pay on their tea and all those things which are free of duty in Canada. The hon. member for South Oxford made the statement, and it was also made in a most emphatic manner by the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Mar-

tin). that the manufacturers got hold of the Finance Minister last year and made him alter his tariff resolutions. One of the followers of hon. gentlemen opposite said in the west that the manufacturers got the Finance Minister to change his tariff to such an extent that its own father would not know it. That statement has been made here by the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin). That hon. gentleman quoted the manufacturers' report, in which the secretary takes credit to himself for having influenced the Minister. This is a matter which has to be cleared up. It has been again and again stated in the west, and I think I have seen the statement in the "Globe" newspaper. We have heard it made in this House also. The hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Casey) elaborated it the other night in a most emphatic manner. It is said that although the Finance Minister came down with something in the way of tariff reform which was pretty good, the manufacturers got him by the throat, and he had to take it all back. I will just quote the words of the hon. member for Winnipeg :

In carrying out this promise, the Finance Minister did bring down resolutions, which, if put into force, would have lessened somewhat the imposts then upon the country. He was not allowed, however, to carry his policy into force.

The hon. member for Winnipeg went on to quote this manufacturers' report, just as the hon. member for South Oxford did. I am very sorry that neither the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) nor the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) is here, because I would ask them to give me the instances in which the manufacturers made the Finance Minister change his tariff. I would challenge them, as I did on the public platform one of their followers. I put the two tariffs before him, and I said : There is the tariff as it was ultimately agreed to, and there it is as it was first brought down—show me the changes. He said, I will do it some other time. Why, Sir, he was only echoing the lying statements made by the Grit press when they saw the manufacturers' deputations come to Ottawa, just as farmers' deputations came. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) and myself were among some few members of Parliament who introduced to Sir John Thompson deputations of farmers. No doubt deputations from the manufacturers came here. But what does that show ? It shows that the tariff had affected them a good deal. I would ask these gentlemen to prove their assertion, because I should not be expected to prove a negative. The statement as made in the press outside, and as made in the west, is false.

Mr. LANDERKIN. What statement is that ?

Mr. DAVIN. That the Finance Minister brought down certain changes in the tariff.