

has been one purely of expediency, one answering in a faint way to the pledges that they are unable to redeem, but that they promised to redeem, and redeem, probably, at the cost of this country. Now, Sir, I wish to call attention for a few moments to what will be the effect of the policy of these hon. gentlemen as regards this two-sided shield that is held up to the people. One is that the people are told that notwithstanding that taxation of this country has been materially increased, there is a prospect at least of a substantial reduction in taxation from what is called schedule D. But let me point out that the hon. gentlemen showed great ingenuity, I admit a good deal of ingenuity, in the plan that they laid down for themselves, and one that they hoped to deceive the people with. The very first thing that the hon. gentlemen did was to impose an increased tax of at least one-fifth upon the class of goods that come into this country from Great Britain. The hon. gentlemen raised them from 30 to 35 per cent and from 20 to 25 per cent, and so on, and they prepared themselves for a standard in order that they might have a chance of knocking it down. Now, let me call attention to this fact. Suppose there was a large portion of the goods, and there will be a large portion of English goods coming into this country, the most that people could hope for under any circumstances, is that as they have increased the duty by one-fifth, they will be able to reduce it by one-fourth. The most that people could get out of it would be that they would have a difference of one-twentieth. Now, I am sure that hon. gentlemen, letting that stand alone by itself, cannot boast very much over it. But there is another question. Now, let me point out that the class of goods that come in with a reduction from England, particularly so far as the consuming classes in this country are concerned, is that class of goods that are not consumed by the masses of the people, but are consumed by a class of people who have wealth, who have money more plentifully, and who are better able to buy. Now, they have a decided advantage. I wish to call attention for a moment to a few items of that kind. I will take the item of silk and silk manufactures, condensing them. The fine clothes, carpets, curtains, embroideries and other fine goods, imported from England and coming in under that schedule, would be \$6,699,000, while from the United States and other countries there would be only about half a million dollars' worth. Now, that means that the poorer people of this country are obliged to pay taxes for the wealthier class, that is the inevitable consequence of a policy of that kind; because the high-priced goods, the goods that are only consumed by the wealthier classes, come in with a reduction, while the goods imported from other countries and the United States are a class that are consumed

entirely by those less able to pay duties. Now, I will consider the effect of this policy upon the farmers and the great consuming classes in this country, for whom hon. gentlemen have had such great solicitude in the past. Why, Sir, they were the champions of the farmers and the poorer classes; they were constantly computing the heavy duties that were imposed upon the consumers of cheap goods in this country, and they went to the country largely upon a cry of that kind. Now, I will mention a few articles in which the farmer is particularly concerned, taking the whole class of farming implements. There will be cultivators, seed drills, hay forks, harrows, harvesters, horse rakes, mowing machines, ploughs, plough plates and moulds, rakes, reapers, scythes, spades and shovels, and all other agricultural implements; nails and spikes, wrought hardware, locks of all kinds, pumps, sewing machines and all other kinds of machinery; woodenware, trees and shrubs, seeds, garden and field, and bituminous coal that is largely consumed now in Canada in consequence of the disappearance of other fuel. Why, Sir, all these articles are consumed by the farmers, they are the principal articles that the farmers buy, they are those that constitute the great burden upon the farmers of this country, and they are the class of goods that come in almost exclusively from the United States. The policy of the Conservative party is that they should be produced in this country, but if they have to come from a foreign country, if we were unable to shut them out in the past as effectually as we desired to do, then is not the difficulty multiplied as one could well imagine, when we find that the poorer classes must pay the higher rate of duty on that class of goods. Now, what is the amount of all those articles that come from England? Of all those articles, something like \$304,000 worth came from England, while from the United States they amount to considerably over six millions. I am sure hon. gentlemen cannot close their eyes to the fact that if they were to apply the schedule, if they were to confine it alone to England, as they profess, and as they state now that they are going to do, I am not prepared to say that that is going to be the case, but if it were the case, and if it were applied alone to England, no greater injury could be inflicted upon the poorer classes, more particularly the farmers in this country, than to subject them to the burden of taxation that hon. gentlemen are proposing to place upon the people of this country. No policy seems to me is so just as the one that leaves it a voluntary matter to every taxpayer to be not only a taxpayer but at the same time a tax collector, paying taxes to the extent to which he is able and willing to consume goods.

But let me turn to another phase of the question with respect to the position hon. gentlemen have taken upon schedule B. So