

rates from Chicago to the seaboard to-day are less than from Toronto to the seaboard; and if the Liverpool prices rule the market, the Chicago prices should be higher than the Toronto prices. You will find that Toronto prices are higher by 6 cents; and we find, further, that Chicago No. 1 wheat is different from Toronto No. 1. Chicago hard spring wheat is not grown in the vicinity of Toronto, and not quoted. What is quoted in Toronto is Ontario spring wheat, and that is not worth as much in Toronto by 6 cents as the Chicago wheat; so that there is 13 cents of difference in the comparative value at the two places.

Mr. DUNDAS. The hon. member for York (Mr. Wallace) answered so effectively the comparisons of the hon. member for North Norfolk, as to the prices of wheat in Chicago and Toronto, that I need only refer to the comparison of the hon. member for North Norfolk, of the prices of wheat in Toronto and Buffalo. I find the price of wheat quoted in the *Globe*—the hon. gentleman stated it at 92 cents—at 91 cents and a fraction in Buffalo for No. 1 hard wheat. The hon. gentleman should know that No. 1 hard wheat is worth from 5 to 7 cents—yes, up to 10 cents—more than ordinary spring wheat in the same market at the same time, and it is very unfair for the hon. gentleman to quote one class of wheat in one market and compare it with another class of wheat in another market, when the value of one is fully from 5 to 7 cents greater than the other. Hon. gentlemen on the opposite side say the price of wheat is regulated by the value in Liverpool. If that were the case, the price in Toronto and the price in Chicago ought to be about the same, provided the freight is about the same. I think it is known in the trade that freight from Chicago to Liverpool to-day is not 1 cent more than it is from Toronto; in fact, I believe it is known that freight from Chicago can be had for less than from Toronto. There is then a clear difference of 6 cents and a fraction in favor of Toronto to-day as against the price in Chicago for the same kind of wheat. The hon. gentlemen on the other side are continually saying that we on this side prophesied that the price of wheat would be increased and that we would always get high prices for wheat, for wool, and for every article. I would just like to ask those gentlemen once for all to point out where members of the Government and prominent members of the party promised that, under all circumstances, the price of wheat under the National Policy would be high. What we said then and what we say now is that the National Policy, by placing our home market in the hands of our own farmers, has increased the value of a large portion of wheat for home use. That is what we said it would do, and that is what we contend it has done; and I say that the hon. gentleman should once for all either cease making false assertions as to what we said before, or else prove them to be what they say they are.

Mr. McNEILL. The hon. gentleman from Elgin seemed to be very much annoyed at the National Policy, because he said that during the time of the National Policy we did not import rags to Canada.

Mr. CASEY. No.

Mr. McNEILL. That, during the time there was the National Policy, there was no trade in the importation of rags.

Mr. CASEY. That is not what I said.

Mr. McNEILL. I mean that prior to the National Policy there was no trade in the importation of rags.

Mr. CASEY. No; I was quoting from the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Wigle), who said that prior to the introduction of the National Policy there was no trade in the manufacture of rags into shoddy at the Weston Mills. I did not say there was no importation.

Mr. WALLACE.

Mr. McNEILL. I understood the hon. gentleman to say distinctly that there was no importation of rags, and I think we can readily understand why that should be, because probably we had plenty of rags at home. Since the National Policy has been introduced, however, I think we find that we are able to clothe our own people comfortably, and we require to get our rags from abroad. I rose to refer to the price of oats. The hon. member from Norfolk, on a previous occasion, in speaking of the prices of grain, quoted certain prices, and stated that it was impossible for any one to assert truthfully or correctly that the National Policy had benefited the farmers of the country. While he was making his quotation I called his attention to the price of oats at Chicago.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Rags.

Mr. McNEILL. I would not refer to a prior debate, but this matter has come up at this moment, and I suppose you will allow me to refer to it. I would call the hon. gentleman's attention to the price of oats in Chicago to-day. I find that to-day the price of oats at Chicago is, for March, 28½ cents and 28 cents. The price of oats in Toronto is quoted thus:

"Oats quiet. Sold one at 37 cents on the track, but held steady and offered slowly."

So that 37 cents on the track represents the price of oats to the Canadian farmer to-day, whereas in Chicago they are worth only 28½ cents.

Mr. CHARLTON. Will the hon. gentleman state the difference in the standard bushel?

Mr. McNEILL. The difference in the weight is, I believe, 2 pounds to the bushel, which is a mere fraction of the weight, and would be a very small fraction indeed of the price. It is clear that there is an enormous difference in the price of oats in Toronto and in Chicago to-day.

Mr. CHARLTON. Will the difference pay the freight between the two points?

Mr. McNEILL. The fact is, that prior to the introduction of the National Policy the price of oats in Toronto was ruled very much by the price in Chicago, and was very seldom higher.

Mr. CHARLTON. The hon. gentleman evades my question. I ask whether the difference will pay the freight?

Mr. BOWELL. It has nothing to do with it.

Mr. McNEILL. The cost of the freight from Chicago to Toronto has surely nothing to do with the price that oats may be in other parts of Canada for the farmer. The price of oats in Toronto has been, prior to the National Policy, very much the same as the price of oats in Chicago. Since the National Policy was introduced, except in one year, when there was a failure in the crop of oats in the United States, we have had a very large advantage in Canada over the American producer.

Mr. CHARLTON. No; you have not. This is the first year.

Mr. McNEILL. It is so to-day, at all events. When he referred to it before, the hon. gentleman did not refer to the Chicago market, but to the Oswego or the Buffalo market. I spoke to a grain dealer on the subject, and he simply laughed at the idea of a comparison between the Oswego or Buffalo market and the Toronto market. He said it was the Chicago market alone which they considered, as far as American markets were concerned, as to the price of oats and the price of wheat. In establishing the prices at which they purchased, they considered the market in Chicago and the market in Liverpool, and not at all the market in Buffalo, to which the hon. gentleman referred. The fact is, that, so far from the National Policy having been no benefit