

that there is a lack of employment for labour in England, that great consuming market for the surplus production of the world. Protection is a policy of restriction to create scarcity, free trade is a policy of competition in order to produce plenty and to the extent that it is pursued to that extent you are increasing the demand for labour in order to manufacture and produce the larger quantities that labour is able to purchase in consequence of the abolition of that 40 per cent protective taxation on the retail value of the necessaries of life in Canada. The House has listened to me with a great deal of patience, but I trust I have brought forward facts and figures that will cause the leader of the government to make himself at any rate acquainted with the truth of what I allege. I only advance these statements to the House as they present themselves to my mind—as they present themselves to our mind in that western country where we have to buy agricultural machinery for our own use and where we find the necessaries of life abnormally increased. I can only present them in that way and it is for those who desire to continue that oppressive policy to prove that I am incorrect in the statements that I am making.

The next clause of the Address is :

We are greatly pleased to hear that, during the period that has elapsed since the last session of Parliament, Your Excellency had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia; that throughout these tours Your Excellency was impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and that, notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, you observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which, you are graciously pleased to say, is one of the characteristics of her people and furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

I may say that I had the pleasure of meeting their Excellencies out west myself, and their visit afforded a great deal of pleasure to the people there. They saw in the province of Manitoba and in the Territories progress and prosperity so far as the bounties of providence are concerned. We have a prolific soil and an exceedingly rich country, and are able to produce in consequence of the climatic conditions there a class of cattle and a grade of wheat that will always be sought for, and for which we can get the

highest price. It would perhaps surprise honourable gentlemen to know that of 85,000 head of cattle exported from Canada last year, about 35,000 head went from Manitoba and the North-west. To that extent we have occasion to be very grateful indeed, but there are some who by legislation desire to take the cream off the milk in the province of Manitoba and the Territories, and it is our effort to preserve that cream for those whose industry and labour create it so far as justice demands. I do not see why we should be made hewers of wood and drawers of water, to distribute wealth improperly and unjustly so far as our territory is concerned. If we have a fertile soil, and are able to produce the best class of wheat, we want to get whatever value there is in it, and if the legislation of the Federal Parliament enables a favoured class of people to profit by our industry to a greater extent than legitimate competition would enable them, a manifest injury is done by the government that imposes that upon us. Notwithstanding the oppressive tariff, such is the richness of that country, that I think their Excellencies were impressed with the beauty and value of the country and with the high character of the population existing there. They must have seen that everything augurs well for the future of that country, and it is for this Parliament to assist us in developing our resources by fair and proper legislation. We are essentially an agricultural community in the North-west, and I feel perfectly sure that a change in the commercial conditions of the country will make this eastern portion of Canada one of the greatest industrial centres on this continent, if not in the whole world, but a continuance of the present policy will bring disaster upon the country, and especially upon western Canada.

The next paragraph deals with the admission of the Island of Newfoundland to the union. I trust that the people of Newfoundland will decide in favour of joining the confederation, and I believe that the result will be of great and lasting benefit, not only to them but to the whole Dominion, extending the principles of the British constitution and its liberty loving progress on the continent. There are several bills to be presented to us. There is just one thing that I should like to say so far as the passing of bills is concerned—I see no reference to the Copyright Act