

gentlemen in power now are the same gentlemen who went about the country a few years ago telling the people that they would reduce the duty on agricultural implements, and put coal oil on the free list. Well, they are the very same gentlemen. It is true they do not ride in an ordinary railway car to-day, but have private palace cars at their disposal whenever they want to indulge in a railway jaunt. True, they are not clothed as they were before; they are a little more gorgeous now. But after all, the farmer brushes off the veneer, and he finds that it is the same gentleman, and he puts the same question. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), was up in my riding, and I hope he will come again, because in the town of Gravenhurst where he spoke, the majority against me was afterwards smaller than it had been before. I would like him to come up and talk to the people about coal oil, because they will hear the other side of the story—how this government is in the grip of the Standard Oil Company, how they have the influence of the Standard Oil Company behind them. Everybody knows that the Standard Oil Company have this government in the hollow of their hand. They have already shown some signs of their strength. Judge Lister, who was a strong candidate in West Lambton—with all respect for the present member, I think equally strong with him—had a majority of 86 in the town of Sarnia, which I find on looking at the returns is a large majority; but since the government made the deal with the Standard Oil Company, that company showed its strength by increasing that majority in the by-election in Sarnia, to 474. The policy of the Liberal-Conservative administration with regard to coal oil was to protect the native industry, thereby bringing about a fair competition, so that fair prices and only fair prices should be paid by the consumer. But as soon as these gentlemen came into power they found the old applicants knocking at their doors, who had knocked at the doors of the Liberal-Conservative government in vain, namely, the Standard Oil Company. Every time that great monopoly applied to the Liberal-Conservative government for privileges, they were denied; but at their first knock, this government were prepared to accede to their wishes; and what happened? A gentleman who was head and shoulders above many members of this administration, but who was not taken into the cabinet—I refer to Judge Lister—after begging and entreating these hon. gentlemen not to make the concession to the Standard Oil Company, allowing them to bring in oil in ships. When he saw that all chance of an effective appeal was gone, stood up in this Chamber on the 19th of June, 1897, and said:

The difficulty is this that these tank ships are in the hands of one vast corporation, who will

use them to compel the railway companies to carry their oil at a lower rate than they gave to the other oil refiners of the country, and in that way secure an advantage over the trade which I venture to predict will compel the trade to yield to that corporation, so that the oil interests of this country will be in the hands of one great monopoly in a short time.

These were words of wisdom from Judge Lister. He knew the situation. He was simply demanding fair-play on the part of the people of the country as a whole. The Standard Oil Company, was a great, greedy corporation, with their hands at the throat of this government. Judge Lister was not as strong as the Standard Oil Company, and the government came down and gave them that concession. What has happened? Everything that Mr. Lister said has proved true. To-day, the country is under the ban of this monopoly. The farmer and the artisan who have not the competition of the electric light and gas are forced to pay prices for their coal oil almost 50 per cent higher than they paid a few years ago. And where does this government stand? This government, who have on the statute-book a law providing that any monopoly or trust shall be dealt with, do not dare to touch the Standard Oil Company, because that company is their master; and the proof exists to-day, in the fact that the Standard Oil Company are exacting from the people of Canada 25 and 30 cents a gallon for coal oil when it is selling in the United States for 9 and 10 cents a gallon. If there was fair competition in this country, there would be a reduction in the prices. There are other American companies besides the Standard Oil Company. On their bended knees these companies have come to this government and have asked them to remove the duty on coal oil. To-day the whole coal oil interest of Canada is in the hands of the Standard Oil Company, and the government are not protecting Canadians by keeping up the duty, but they are protecting this gigantic American monopoly; and these companies have asked the government to throw the field open and let all companies compete in a fair field with no favours. That was not done. The representatives of the Standard Oil Company were here when the last budget speech was delivered. Every one knows them by the size of their diamonds. They left the city after the government had announced that there would be no changes in the tariff; and the next day a cent a gallon was placed on coal oil, the result of which was that the Standard Oil Company made \$200,000 out of the people of Canada. A little time ago, in the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, a court of the country, the rival oil companies came and proved not only that the Standard Oil Company were holding this government by the throat, but that they also held up the railways. It was proved in evidence that under the old