

but that they had let their neighbours' relations shift for themselves. Well, in the constituency, North York, which I have the honour to represent in this parliament there is an important implement industry and one of long standing in this country. I refer to J. Fleury's Sons of Aurora, Ontario, makers of cultivating implements and stock raisers' machines. I need not tell members of the Progressive party who J. Fleury's Sons are in the implement-making business, but I will read a letter which I have received from Mr. Fleury, the head of this firm, so that the House may see what his view is with respect to the changes that have been made. The letter is dated May 1, 1924 at Aurora, Ontario, and it is as follows:

Dear Mr. KING:

I wish to express my satisfaction with the amendments put before the House yesterday in connection with duties on materials entering into the cost of implements.

Manufacturers of agricultural implements should feel, I believe, that they have no real grievance; and should be able to show farmers (and no doubt will) that the adjustments of the tariff and the removal of the sales tax will give farmers appreciable benefit in the matter of lower prices.

I wish to express my appreciation of, and thanks for, your consideration in taking time personally to get a real understanding of the situation of implement manufacturers as affected by the changes in the tariff.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. W. FLEURY.

Mr. Fleury, as hon. members are aware, is one of the best known and most important agricultural implement makers in Ontario and indeed in Canada. I may say that when the government decided that the time had come when a change should be made in the tariff on implements of production we did not try to bring about that change in an indifferent manner or one which would work injury to any industries that could be avoided. We sought to get in touch with the implement makers and I myself asked a number of them and their representatives to come to Ottawa to confer with some of my colleagues and myself. We met them and intimated that in our opinion the interests of Canada demanded that there should be a reduction in the duties on agricultural implements and that the government had made up its mind to that reduction. We added, however, that we wished to make that reduction in such a manner as would do the least possible injury to the industries with which these manufacturers were connected, and we invited suggestions from them as to how, in making the reduction, we could meet them in other ways. We had numerous conferences with them, the result being that we have worked out a

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

tariff which in my opinion not only will prove beneficial to all the basic industries and the manufacturing businesses that develop out of those industries, but which will also prove of advantage to the implement makers themselves. Time will tell, and time I think will prove that the government in this connection has been wise.

I was going to say something on immigration but I shall reserve my remarks on that subject until another occasion, for I fear that other speakers have been much restricted this evening. As we opened the debate with an exchange of courtesies in the nature of an exchange of editorials from the Farmers' Sun between the leader of the opposition and myself, I think before concluding I should tender him one more from the Farmers' Sun to make up for the "Wobbling Mr. King" one which he sent over to me. My right hon. friend waxed eloquent in his desire for a general election. He said, "We are ready now and we challenge the government to go to the country at once." And all his cohorts alongside him applauded so that it was impossible to hear another sound for a good many seconds. Perhaps the Farmers' Sun is not very far wrong in its view of what my hon. friend's desire is in the matter of a general election. This editorial appears under date April 16 and is headed "Mr. Meighen's hard luck." It reads:

The heaviest cross the Tory politician has to bear is not an overpowering fear of industrial collapse due to tariff reduction. Such a fear might disturb him somewhat, but it could never impress him as a misfortune equal to the circumstance that Hon. Robb's budget should make its appearance a year or more before a general election. It is one thing to plunge into a campaign, broadcasting blue ruin, creating distrust and apprehension by predicting disaster in the future; it is an entirely different proposition to unbalance the judgment of an electorate able to measure of sincerity of election propaganda in the light of experience. By the time the voters of the Dominion are called upon to speak, the changes submitted to the House by the Acting Finance Minister will have had a reasonable trial. It will be known then beyond dispute how much or how little they have benefited agriculture, and the other primary industries of the country. It will be possible, also, to estimate the injury, if any, inflicted upon industries whose protection has been reduced. And this is as it should be.

My right hon. friend says that he is ready for a general election. Let me tell him that this government has not yet finished its work of the present parliament. We have a lot more to do; we have only started upon what we hope to be able to do for the country. My right hon. friend may want a general election, but the country does not. The country notes with favour the progress in its affairs that has been made since the present