

farmers who are engaged in the most important industry of all. I contend it is the right of the wheat growers to be the judges in this matter. They go on the prairies and they face the hardships of pioneer life, which I have shared with them in another branch of industry for twelve years, and when they come to this Government and say, we understand our industry and we want the tariff on wheat removed. The Government sits passive and lets the Argentine Republic get into the United States markets in front of them. The Government's treatment of the farmers is not fair to the agricultural industry as compared with their treatment of other industries which come to them. Why is it that the Government did not attend to this matter? Have the millers had anything to do with it? Have they had representations from the millers? I am afraid the Government has paid too much attention to the millers. Well, what about the millers? What about the milling industry? Sir John Simon, speaking in Birmingham, England, the other night, said: I do not suppose, at this moment, there is any industry in Britain which is more flourishing than the milling industry under free trade? That opinion is well worth weighing by the Government when the millers come to it. That is the opinion of Sir John Simon in regard to the milling industry of Great Britain, where they have to import their raw material; but here our millers are in the midst of the finest raw material in the world for their business, in the midst of an overwhelming abundance of that raw material. I say that if they cannot mill in Canada, they are not meant to mill; they should come out beside me and take up homesteads. They should certainly not be allowed to prevent the farmers from getting this market, if it is to be of any good to them. The millers say they would be put out of business. They are not afraid of being put out of business. What they are afraid of is that they will have to accept the same price for flour in Canada as they do in Great Britain. I believe they get higher prices for flour in Canada than they can secure in Great Britain. Their fear is that they will have to take the same prices in Canada as in Great Britain, and I do not think that a fear of that kind should be allowed to interfere with the Government in this matter.

This is not a western question. It is a Canadian question. I have just indicated how it is a Canadian question. Everybody

[Mr. Michael Clark].

knows—my hon. friend from Portage la Prairie, the Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen) knows, and will not deny, that the development of Canada in the last half generation, the great prosperity of Canada has been due to the development of western Canada, not that there has not been a development of industries here; but, if you place more farmers on the land of the west, you benefit every industry in western Canada.

Just compare the methods of freedom in this matter with the methods of protection. Compare the steel bounties' policy which has been supported by both Governments in this country with the method I propose of giving our wheat a free exit into the United States market. Protection begins at the wrong end. I was in Nova Scotia lately, and I looked over the Steel Works in Sydney. Very good works they are; but, while being shown over them, I came to two mills that were standing idle. I said to the manager, a courteous fellow countryman of mine: What is the matter with these mills? He said; We have got no orders. Now, what amount of tariff or what amount of bounty will send orders into those mills? If you gave them a million dollars a day, it would not give orders to those mills. All it would do would be to pay interest on the capital invested in the works. But, if you begin at the other end and develop your farm lands and develop western Canada, you will develop your transportation. You cannot do that without steel and you will, therefore, develop the steel works at Sydney and in other parts of the country. I bring that before the Government as an important consideration in connection with this matter of free wheat. A far-seeing statesmanship—and it does not require a very long sight—would give free wheat at once to the western farmers; and with it, if the Government wanted to do a wise act to cure the present depression, they should take the duty off agricultural implements. I trust my hon. friend the Solicitor General got a guarantee upon that subject before he entered the Government. It would be customary in Britain for him to have got such a guarantee. When any gentleman, in the position of my hon. friend in the old country, has spoken as strongly as he has in regard to the reduction of duty on agricultural implements, he ought not to have taken his seat in that Government unless he has got a guarantee that his views will prevail there. He must be true to himself