

taxes. The farmers are willing to bear their share. They have suggested a method by which they can do so; namely, taxation on unimproved lands. As one who has been a farmer all his life, I am in favour of that. Let the Government figure out our share of what revenue is needed, and tax all lands in Alberta, improved and unimproved, and let us pay by direct taxation so that we may know what we are paying. I think every province will be willing to agree to that. But let us not be taxed in this indirect form whereby no one gets the benefit and yet the farmers are paying the taxes just the same.

Mr. MORPHY: I understand the hon. gentleman to favour direct taxation on all lands.

Mr. WHITE (Victoria, Alta.): Yes. If there cannot be found in Alberta enough uncultivated land to pay our just share of taxation in proportion to the population of Canada, I think that is the proper way to get it. The Government might as well take it one way as the other.

When I was reading out some telegrams a little while ago, I overlooked a very important one. This resolution was passed at a farmers' convention:

Farmers of Vegreville district covering an area of over 1,000 square miles request that agricultural implements and all farm machinery and vehicles be placed on the free list that the reciprocity agreement of 1911 which still remains on the United States Statute Books be accepted by the Parliament of Canada that the customs tariff on all necessaries of life be materially reduced.

(Signed) Thos. Balam,
Vegreville Organised Farmers.

The hon. member for Maple Creek (Mr. Maharg), I understood, stated that he was in favour of the Government's fixing a price on wheat. I am not in favour of anything of that kind. I do not think there is any necessity for the Government to fix the price of any commodity in the way of food-stuffs. It was decided at the farmers' convention, I understand, although I was not present, and it was stated by the president of that organization who, my hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie) claims is an annexationist, that they did not want any privileges and they would not go on record as asking the Government to fix a price on anything.

He said they had to go into the open markets of the world and sell, and they wanted an opportunity to buy in those same open markets. In spite of all that has been said, after all the objections made by the Acting Prime Minister in that beautiful

"twilight-sleep" speech that is said to have worked such wonders at the caucus the other day, I should like to know what other opportunity we had of stating where we stood with regard to the tariff; I do not know of any other way myself. He was followed by my old friend the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark). As long as I have been in political life I have known the hon. member for Red Deer. In the year 1908 he and another gentleman were good enough to give me a good deal of assistance in my first campaign. He was very well received, and may have made some converts. I was very much surprised to-day to find him deprecating the efforts of the late Liberal Government; he said that as regards the tariff they had done nothing but sleep for ten years. I remember his chief argument on that occasion—and I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, whether he cannot put the best side on any cause he undertakes—he carried the people along with him and made them believe that their only danger was in being led away by some misfortune, perhaps like the present Elections Act, from the Liberal Government which had done such wonderful things in respect of the tariff. We were both successful on that occasion, but my hon. friend was not elected on his political or personal record. He was a new man in that country with no political record behind him, so naturally he "went nap" on the political record of the Liberal party. I might say that prior to that occasion, at a provincial election, when my hon. friend did not depend upon the record of the Liberal party, he was not successful, being one of the two Liberal members defeated in the whole province of Alberta. I am not saying that in an unkind way, because we have all had our experiences. We know that, perhaps, the best representative that Alberta has ever sent to this House was defeated in an election; I refer to the Hon. Frank Oliver. But he was not defeated in Alberta, nor by the farmers. He was defeated in France. He won ninety-five per cent of the rural poll; the farmers for whom he had striven so hard stayed with him to the end. He was defeated in the city of Edmonton by people who did not know him. I mention this to show that defeat in an election is not necessarily a reflection upon a man's character or political record. My hon. friend (Mr. Clark) scolded us this afternoon, and he is getting into the habit of scolding hon. members on this side of the House, in whom he used to take such pride when leading them on the straight and narrow