

compelled to take possibly in five or six months from now because the price of our crop is regulated by the immense crop which they may possibly have in the United States.

Now, as I stated a moment ago, I propose to direct the attention of the House to the wool question. I consider, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very serious question. This is a question which this government have neglected with the result that they are responsible for having practically wiped out of existence the wool and sheep industry which means millions of dollars to this Dominion. I am going to go fully into the wool question because I know whereof I speak upon that subject. Even the late lamented Sir John Macdonald did not grasp the wool situation as it should have been grasped. The Americans, during his term of government, imposed against our Canadian wool going into the United States a duty of 8 cents a pound. I give the late Sir John Thompson, who was Prime Minister of this country, credit for being the only man in Canada who grasped the wool situation as it should have been grasped. He said to the American government: if you do not remove that duty of 8 cents a pound that you have imposed upon our Canadian wool we will apply the same duty of 8 cents a pound to wool coming from the United States. What was the result? The result was that the United States duty was wiped out and we had between the United States and Canada for a short time free trade in wool. Wool is practically the only one of our farm products in regard to which we should have free trade between Canada and the United States.

Mr. CALDWELL. Would the hon. gentleman tell me how the small quantity of wool that we shipped to the United States could have any effect upon the American import tariff?

Mr. CLEMENTS. If the hon. gentleman will listen to my argument upon this point after I get through I shall be very glad to answer any question he may desire to ask me. We had free trade in wool between the United States and Canada for a short time. The result was that New York and Boston buyers came here and bought our wool from our farmers at first hand and our farmers were getting from 23 to 30 cents a pound for their wool. That was only a short time ago. But, when the McKinley Bill was passed it imposed practically a fifty per cent duty against all our Canadian products and why I say our government are to blame is because they had not back bone enough to stand up and say: We will apply the same duty to the products of the United States. The McKinley Bill imposed on Canadian wool duties ranging from 10 to 35 cents a pound according to the grade. Neither Canada nor the United States can export their wool because we know that England is the raw wool market of the

world and the result is that we manufacture our own wool.

Mr. CALDWELL. Does the hon. gentleman mean that no Canadian wool is being exported at present to the United States?

Mr. CLEMENTS. If the hon. gentleman will come down to the front I will get his question. I cannot hear him.

Mr. CALDWELL. The hon. gentleman says that Canadian wool is not being exported to the United States now owing to the duty. There is a duty of 12 cents a pound on Canadian wool going into the United States and there is wool being exported every day or every week to the United States even with that 12 cents a pound duty.

Mr. CLEMENTS. If the hon. gentleman had listened to the return I read to this House he would have known that I gave to the House the amount of wool that was imported from the United States and the amount of wool that was exported. The hon. gentleman says that there is 12 cents a pound duty on wool. I make the statement that there is a duty of from 12 to 38 cents a pound on wool going into the United States and that there is practically no duty at all upon American wool coming into Canada.

Mr. CALDWELL. The duty is based on the grade of the wool.

Mr. CLEMENTS. I am sorry to say, while I do not want to be offensive at all, that the hon. gentleman must be very dense or he would have been able to have got at the question that I am trying to put before the House, and which I am trying to state as plainly and correctly as possible. Now, as I stated before, three-fourths of the wool they produce in the United States is termed a clothing wool that is a wool having a short fibre, while three-fourths of the wool we produce is termed a combing wool, because, this being a colder climate, we produce that grade of wool here. The American manufacturers want every solitary pound of our Canadian wool; they must have every pound they can get. Why did the United States government, knowing that the manufacturers wanted every pound of that combing wool they could get from us, impose that duty of from 12 to 35 cents per pound on our wool? Was it to help the manufacturer? No, it was to protect the farmer and I have a statement here showing that the Michigan farmer, not 45 miles away from the district in which I live, has been getting from 35 to 39 cents a pound for the very same wool that the Canadian farmer has been selling at from 12 to 15 cents a pound. Our Canadian farmer has been compelled to sell his unwashed wool in this country at 7 cents a pound and the result is that in my district where there were 100 farmers fifteen years ago who were raising all the way from