

this country in the manner he has done from the moment he was sworn into office until the present time, if he continues to gain upon the confidence and good-will of the people of this Dominion in the same way in which he has from the 23rd of June up to the present time, the prospects of hon. gentlemen opposite coming back to power are very slim indeed. I hope that he will do that. I hope that the people of Canada will appreciate the honest efforts he is making in their behalf; and that not only the people of Canada, but the people throughout the British Empire, will recognize in him a statesman, a noble man, a man who is determined to serve this country to the best of his power, and the interests of the people who have placed him in the distinguished position he occupies. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have made these remarks, feeling it my duty, as a humble representative of a rural constituency, to express my appreciation of the honest efforts the Government have made in constructing this tariff. I am sure that among the people of the Dominion generally the policy of the Government will meet with the same approval that was given it in several constituencies yesterday. Let me say also that should my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), in the course of events, be asked to appear again before the electors of that constituency, unless he makes up his mind to declare himself an out-and-out supporter of the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, I have no doubt that we shall lose his musical voice in this Chamber. Sir, I do not for a moment fancy that he will do that, and it is very doubtful if he comes back again. He has furnished a good deal of amusement to the House, in times past, and if we have to bid him adieu, we can do so with a kind regard for the manner in which he has endeavoured to discharge his duties, and with a hope that whatever sphere of life he may be called upon to fill, he may prove successful.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

### After Recess.

#### SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 58) respecting the Temiscouata Railway Company.—(Mr. Domville.)

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker, in continuing the debate on this question which has engaged our attention for the last few days, I desire to do so very briefly, and to point out a few facts in connection with it that I think should receive our attention. But before going into the subject proper, I wish to say, in replying to some of the observations made by the hon. member for North

Wellington (Mr. McMullen), whom I regret is not in his place, that if he had been thoughtful or considered for a moment what he was saying, he would scarcely have used the language which he did. He said: It is quite clear that the elections of Winnipeg, of Macdonald and of Prince County, Prince Edward Island, understand it—speaking of the tariff—because they have returned members to support this Government. I take the members for Winnipeg and Macdonald. Hon. gentlemen who were in the House for some years past must remember the petitions that came here from time to time on behalf of the people of that distant country. What were their requests made from the Government, and how far have those requests been granted? For if they have not been granted, it would scarcely justify a verdict in favour of the plea that the Government carried the elections on the basis of the tariff. I jotted down on the spur of the moment a few of the demands they made, and which from time to time they have urged to be granted. They demanded better freight rates. Has the Government given better freight rates by the tariff? It does not touch the question at all; it is not natural that it should do so, and the Government has in no way dealt with the question since they came into power, and therefore freight rates remain the same. They demanded the removal of duties on agricultural implements, as being one of the necessities of life in that agricultural country. But the tariff does not reduce the duty; it allows them to remain as under the old tariff, and therefore there is no concession in the interest of Manitoba and the North-west in that direction. It is true that the hon. member for North Wellington, speaking of the general tariff, pointed out that reductions would be made under the favoured-nation clause, that the duties on English goods would have an advantage of one-eighth the first year and another eighth the second year, or altogether one-fourth. But how will this benefit the North-west? They do not bring in agricultural implements from England, which is the only country that will benefit under the favoured-nation clause. Then they demanded the duty on barbed wire to be taken off. They have received a slight advantage in that direction and abolition of the balance of the duty on the 1st of January, 1898. They also demanded the removal of the duty on binding twine. There is a reduction for the present year and there will be a greater reduction next year. They demanded the removal of the duty on coal oil. The duty has been reduced one cent per gallon. On these three lines the Government have partially met the request of the people of the North-west, but only on these lines, and they must be considered as of minor importance compared with the balance of the tariff. The people of the North-west also wanted cheaper