

were clamouring for free agricultural implements. Yet, I thought it was a mistake, and I think so still. I will ask the government, for the sake of the trade and commerce of our country, that they will look into this question, regardless of any political capital that may be made out of it. I am not desiring to make any political capital out of it. What benefit has this reduction been to the farmers? Have we had any better implements? I say, no. I say that there is no better binder made to-day, in the known world, than the Massey-Harris binder, and I say that the Smith's Falls manufacturing establishment makes nearly as good a binder, and some farmers like it better than any other, while some farmers like the Massey-Harris binder better. But, we have the very best binders that are made in the world, manufactured in the Dominion of Canada. Have we not proof of it? Do not the Massey-Harris Company send their binders to the continent of Europe where they compete with the world, and sell them in competition with every other firm? Have we got them any cheaper in Canada? We have not got them any cheaper, but we pay more for them to-day than we did five years ago. What is the result? Go through the province of Ontario, on any line of railway, or drive through the country with a horse and rig, and at every village, every town, every station, you come to, you will see, in beautiful letters, painted brilliantly so that everybody can see, the Deering Manufacturing Company, the McCormick Manufacturing Company. I was told by a gentleman in Prescott, that, last year, there were 120 of the Deering and McCormick binders put into the section of the country north of Prescott. If we are not benefiting the farmer, if the farmer is not getting any cheaper machines, if we are not getting them for any less money, I say, put on the tariff and prevent them from being imported. Would it not be a pleasant sight to see the Frost & Wood Company of Smith's Falls, extend their manufacturing establishment so as to cover half the village, employ more men, and make more machines, because they turn out as good a machine as can be made anywhere? I know what I am talking about. I have run a mowing machine made in Smith's Falls, by the Frost & Wood Company, a five-foot cut tubular frame mower. I have run that mower for four years, and I have never had to tighten a nut, it is made so perfectly and carefully with roller bearings. I have a pair of nice carriage horses, weighing less than 1,100 pounds, and I would like to make a wager that with that machine, I can cut ten acres every day of the stoutest hay that grows anywhere in Canada. Having a machine made in our own country, that will accomplish the work and do it perfectly, I say let us make these machines in our country, give employment to the artisans and workmen of our own country, build up the trade

and commerce of our own country, by having the money paid for our machine kept in Canada, and while these men are manufacturing these machines, we farmers can raise the pork, potatoes and beans to feed them. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think some hon. gentlemen opposite are misleading themselves, or trying to mislead themselves, when they rise in this House to make arguments to show how the taxation has been reduced. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), in his budget speech calculated the reduction in taxation at 2.02 per cent, and the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), thought the Minister did not calculate fairly when he spread the taxation all over the free corn which passes through Canada in transit. There is one way that we farmers can judge whether we are paying increased taxation or not, and it is the true test. There is no man in this country so ignorant that he does not know that what he is called upon to contribute to the revenues of the country, is to be found in what he pays for the articles he consumes. There are none so acute as the farmers on that score. The farmers' wives, the ladies know whether they are paying more for their cotton and woollen goods and for their sugar and tea. The farmers know whether they are paying more or less for agricultural implements than they paid before. You may talk about your reduced taxation as much as you like, but when you appeal to the people you will have to show them that they are paying less for the articles they use before you can satisfy them, that there is a reduction in taxation. I submit sir, that this government cannot show the farmers any such thing. The government did make a little reduction in coal oil, but can they make the people believe that they are getting coal oil cheaper, when as a fact they are paying more for it than they paid when the Conservatives were in power. Sir Richard Cartwright claimed the support of the people for the Liberals, on the ground that if they were returned to power, coal oil would be 8 cents a gallon. That is not so. This government put binder twine on the free list, and that was a mistake. It would have been better had they doubled the duty on binder twine and preserve our own manufactures of twine, and if they had done that, then to-day, our binder twine would be cheaper than it is.

There are some other matters I wish to refer to, but I must hasten on. I suppose I must say something about preferential trade. I agree with the hon. gentleman from West Huron (Mr. Holmes), in the opinion that the preferential tariff does neither good nor harm. I am not very much opposed to it. I think it is like patent medicine, vermifuge and Pink Pills, you may take one pill or swallow the whole box and they will neither do you much good nor harm. That is my opinion of the preferential tariff from a farmer's standpoint. You