

I wish to direct the attention of the government to this very important question. In the session of 1901 a deputation waited upon the hon. the Minister of Customs and drew his attention to the fact that very uneven tariff conditions existed between Canada and the United States, in so far as farm and market-garden products were concerned, and the hon. the leader of the opposition moved a resolution during that session which reads as follows :

This House regarding the operation of the present tariff as unsatisfactory, is of opinion that this country requires a declared policy of such adequate protection to its labour, agricultural products, manufactures and industries as will at all times secure the Canadian market for Canadians.

And that the financial policy of the government should include a measure for the thorough and judicious readjustment of the tariff at the present session.

It was thought that the government would do something for the farmers and market-gardeners in the session of 1901. I do not think that any government ever had a better opportunity to do something for so important a class, because the resolution I have just read declared the opinion of the hon. leader of the opposition and his followers upon that question. With this expression of policy on the part of the leader of the opposition and his supporters, the government could have had a resolution adopted unanimously giving to the farmers and market-gardeners the protection they are entitled to. However, in the session of 1901 that resolution was voted down. The hon. leader of the opposition and his supporters recorded their votes in favour of better protection to the farmers and market-gardeners and the right hon. gentleman and his supporters voted down that resolution, so that a distinct issue between the two parties was created on that subject. The Liberal-Conservative party voted in favour of protection and the right hon. gentleman and his supporters opposed better protection to the farmers and market-gardeners. Nothing was done in the session of 1901, and in the session of 1902 another deputation waited on the hon. the Minister of Finance. A very large and influential deputation was received from the province of Ontario and Quebec and submitted resolutions for consideration by that hon. minister and his colleagues—resolutions which had been passed by the Farmers and Market-Gardeners Association of Quebec and Ontario. This large and influential deputation pointed out to the minister that something should be done for the farmers and market-gardeners if they were to retain the Canadian market. During that session the hon. member for Laval (Mr. Leonard) moved this resolution :

That it is greatly in the interests of the market-gardeners and the farmers that the duties on our Canadian garden products be raised so as to give an effective protection against foreign competition.

That resolution expressed the policy of the opposition in this House, but when it was submitted to a vote, the right hon. the leader of the government and his followers voted it down. In the session of 1903, the hon. member for Laval again introduced the same resolution, and important speeches were made pressing some very important facts on the attention of the government, showing that a large quantity of market and farm products was being imported into this country, coming directly into competition with the products of our farms and gardens. It was pointed out also that the present tariff does not give any special advantage because under the ad valorem system of duties, very large quantities of goods were brought in under value, so that there was practically no protection whatever to the interests of the farmers and market-gardeners. This, Sir, is an important question, and I wish to place upon record the one-sided tariff that exists between Canada and the United States. The United States tariff is 45 cents per bushel on beans. Canadian tariff is 15 cents, the United States tariff is 25 cents per bushel on potatoes; the Canadian is 15 cents. On apples the American tariff is 75 cents per barrel and the Canadian 40 cents. On onions the American tariff is 40 cents per bushel, and the Canadian 25 per cent ad valorem. Cabbages, under the American tariff, are charged 3 cents per head, and under the Canadian 25 per cent ad valorem.

You will see, Sir, by this short list that the duties are entirely in favour of the United States farmer as against the Canadian, and what our resolution asks is that the Canadian tariff shall be made equal to the American. Would you allow me to give an example of how this one-sided tariff works out? Last year we imported for home consumption from the United States \$228,640 of potatoes and we exported but \$56,969 worth.

Mr. HEYD. What kind of potatoes did we import?

Mr. BLAIN. The ordinary field potato, not the sweet potato. Of apples we imported from the United States last year \$81,266 worth, while we exported to the United States \$11,508 worth; or a difference in favour of the United States on apples alone of \$69,758. So, on these two items that I have mentioned—potatoes and apples—the balance of trade was \$241,429 in favour of the United States farmer.

I wish now to give a list—not a complete list by any means but only a short one—of other imports into this country under this