

Ontario, therefore, is 130 acres, and the total value of that average farm, including farm stock and implements, is \$5,600. According to this census, what is the value of the property devoted to manufacturers in the province of Ontario? Sir, it is only \$176,603,000, not one-fifth of the property owned by the agriculturists of this country. The Government tell us that they are going to revise the tariff, and the First Minister told us that he would make changes that would be beneficial to all classes; but, judging from other statements we have heard, those changes are all going to be in the direction of favouring those who are already, as the Government term it, in a prosperous condition, that is, the manufacturers. No favourable changes are to be made with respect to the agriculturists or the workingmen of this country, the tariff is not going to be reduced so far as they are concerned. Now, Sir, I was amused, as a farmer, when I heard the statement made that the Minister of Agriculture had gone up to the North-west, and after examining into the condition of things and into the depression that exists in that country, he then turned round and told the farmers that their salvation laid in changing their system and going into mixed farming. Nay, I was more amused when the First Minister told us that he would give them sound advice. It reminded me of a story I heard of a clergyman in my native land. In visiting amongst his parishioners, he went to a fisherman's hut, and proceeded to put him through his catechism. The clergyman found him not so well posted as he ought to be, and reprimanded him severely for not being better acquainted with theology. The fisherman said to him: "Will you allow me to put a single question to you?" "Oh, certainly," said the minister. "Will you tell me, then, how many hooks it will take to make a twelve-fathom line?" "Oh," says the minister, "that is entirely out of my line of business." "It is also entirely out of my line of business to study theology," returned the fisherman. Now, Sir, any man who is acquainted with the condition of the farmers in the North-west, must see that when these two gentlemen undertake to advise the farmer to go into mixed farming, they are talking of something that is entirely out of their line of business. The conditions of the North-west are not similar to those of the province of Ontario or to those of the lower provinces. We know that even if they were to go into mixed farming, they could not succeed, on account of the action of this Government in causing the United States Government to impose the McKinley tariff, for I hold that it was the action of the Canadian Government, to a considerable extent, that led to the McKinley tariff being enacted against Canada; because Mr. McKinley himself, when he made his speech in the House of Representatives, stated that they could not forget the action of the Canadian Government in returning to the tariff list of 1890 those goods they had

removed under pressure in 1888. Even if the farmer of the North-west were to go into mixed farming and to raise barley, he could not get a paying price for it, because the United States market is closed to him—he can only take into the United States after paying a duty of 30 cents per bushel. We know that all the products of the North-west farmers are highly taxed before they can go into the United States. Hon. gentlemen may say that the farmers of the North-west can go into the raising of cattle. Why, Sir, let me tell you that the highest price the farmers of the North-west could get for their cattle last summer, the very best animals they could produce, was 2 cents to 2½ cents per pound, live weight. Let me tell the Minister of Agriculture, and the leader of the Government also, that the farmers of the North-west cannot go into mixed farming, as they are doing in Ontario. Although they can raise roots in abundance, they have not the facilities for handling these roots in the same manner we have; they cannot save them from frost and feed them in winter. Let me say that any individual who declared that the salvation of the North-west at present lies in a system of mixed farming, is speaking of something of which he is ignorant. I went over Manitoba and a good part of the North-west as far as Calgary, visiting Regina and Wolsley, and mingled a good deal amongst the farmers there, and although, before I left Ontario, I was of the opinion that they ought to go more into mixed farming, after going through that country, I soon found that I had been mistaken, and I became convinced that the farmers had been pursuing the best system they could possibly pursue in their own interests. Sir, the farmers in every country are, as a rule, the best judges of what system of farming they can profitably pursue. If the Minister of Agriculture, when he visited the farmers of the North-west, had told them that he was aware they were paying very large sums of money for their agricultural implements, and that he would endeavour to bring pressure to bear upon his colleagues in the Government in order to relieve them from that burden, he would have made a promise which, if fulfilled, would have been greatly to their interest. The settlers in Manitoba alone paid last year something over \$600,000 in duties on goods going into that country, while, at the same time they only got a little over \$400,000 as a subsidy from the Government. They had to pay close upon \$2,000,000 altogether in duties and in tribute to the manufacturers; that is to say, \$2 went into the pockets of the manufacturers for every dollar that went into the treasury of the country. I hold that grievous burdens are imposed upon the farmers in that country from one end of the land to the other. I was astonished at what I ascertained with respect to the trade of that country. When I went up there, I expected to find