

man, just a boy, was sent home. One of his sons told me the other day that he still cherishes as his dearest possession the rifle which his father carried on that occasion. My grandfather helped to take the grandfather of the present Prime Minister out of the country, and on one occasion he had him in that underground railroad, hidden under a bunch of straw on a sleigh.

I refer to this, Mr. Speaker, in order to emphasize the point that I have an inheritance in this tradition of our family that helped to win responsible government, and I do not want the other members of my family who still live in and around old Tory Toronto to say to me: You have forfeited your share in that family heritage because you moved to the western prairies. I want to say this to the eastern gentlemen: Do not introduce an argument of that kind into the discussion of the natural resources question; for to my mind it is an absolutely fallacious one.

I shall not criticize the Speech from the Throne in its general aspect. I took occasion after some of the criticisms that were made yesterday by the right hon. leader of the Opposition to read over the different speeches from the Throne made in the years 1920 and 1921, and I find so far as his general criticisms were concerned, that they might just as well have been offered to those former speeches—and possibly the same kind of criticism was offered to them as was offered yesterday. I have noticed since being in the House that circumstances sometimes alter cases, and it makes a difference whose ox is being gored. There are two or three things, however, I should like to refer to.

I shall not elaborate at any great length on conditions in the West. The hon. leader of this group who has preceded me has, I think, done full justice to that subject. We do not like to appear in the position of being calamity howlers, but perhaps another illustration, and again a personal one, for which I must apologize, will show the condition of things better perhaps than anything else can do. In the year 1912 I bought a wagon for use on the farm and it cost me \$78 cash. It was a fully equipped farm wagon with a three decked-box—a type perfectly familiar to gentlemen from the prairies. My crop, if I remember aright, I sold for 70 cents a bushel. Now remember—\$78 for a wagon and wheat selling at 70 cents a bushel! Last fall I found that I needed a wagon box to put on this same wagon, the old one having become useless in the meantime. I paid \$67 for the box alone, and for my wheat I got 78 cents a bushel net. Now I think these

[Mr. Brown.]

figures will show you that the thing which is confronting the agriculturist to-day is the fact that the old equilibrium between the price he received for his products and the price of the articles he bought for carrying on his work has not been restored. Illustrations of that kind might be multiplied indefinitely, but I think one is sufficient.

Reference has been made to the control of lake rates. I am certain that we hail with approval the action of the government in appointing a royal commission to investigate these rates. Just how far they have been dilatory in taking cognizance of the situation I am not going to say at the present time. Undoubtedly the loss to the western agriculturist during the past season has been serious; we have lost through the combine, if it be a combine, whatever advantage we hoped to have gained through the diminution of freight rates.

If the cattle embargo should be removed we will herald it as, at least, a measure of relief to the farmers of Canada who are producing cattle for the market. To my own mind the question of the cattle embargo to-day is not as serious a thing for Canada as it was thirty years ago when the restriction was imposed. Since that time we have had a large demand growing up in the United States for cattle of a particular class, which we could raise at a profit. My personal opinion is, could we secure that market for the class of cattle we have it would be of infinitely more value to us than the British market would be under present conditions. Nevertheless, I deem it desirable that every possible effort should be put forth to secure and to retain for us that market; and when the time comes to award the honour for the removal of the embargo I would like that the Minister of Agriculture in the province of Ontario should not be forgotten. Because he was responsible in a large measure, I believe, for bringing the matter to the attention of the British people—not perhaps to the attention of the British government direct, but to the attention of the British people—and was responsible for the organization of a campaign which finally resulted in the government of Great Britain taking action in the matter.

Were we assured that a full inquiry into all that relates to the grain trade was to take place forthwith we would look forward to it with a great deal of satisfaction. In my own judgment that can best be done by the appointment of a royal commission if we can get a good one. If we cannot get that kind of a tribunal it cannot do us any very effective service; but I believe a good royal com-