

*The Address—Mr. Bater*

TABLE IV

Total exports to foreign countries including U.S.A.

1928 .....	\$794,053,169
1929 .....	757,115,272
1930 .....	547,341,265
1931 .....	367,872,034
1932 .....	272,726,159
1933 .....	274,268,848
1934 .....	313,896,098
1935 .....	347,333,346
1936 .....	458,178,905
1937 .....	491,145,717

Highest—1928: \$794,053,169

Lowest: 1932

Decrease from 1928 to 1930: 31 per cent

Increase from 1932 to 1935: 27 per cent

**Mr. A. J. Bater (The Battlefords):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to support the motion for the adoption of the speech from the throne I first want to pay the usual tributes. I desire to pay a tribute to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), in that last December by a vote of several of the newspaper editors of our country he was selected as Canada's man of the year. I am happy to state also that running him a close second was an hon. gentleman to whom we listened with great interest this past week, none other than the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson). I regret that my tribute to you, Mr. Speaker, is rather belated; but while late, it is none the less sincere, and I take this opportunity of congratulating you upon your elevation to your high office and the manner in which you are carrying out your duties. I am sure the message you gave us last session on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of India will long linger in our memory.

Since coming here for this session I have heard that there was an election in The Battlefords constituency just a month ago. I am not going to say anything more about that election; enough has been said already. Speaking of elections, however, early in this debate something was said about ballots and ballot boxes in the last election, and there was some reference to ballot boxes as they are used in Russia and ballots as they might be used in China. Well, Mr. Speaker, I contend that there is not and never will be any comparison between the ballots we use in this country and the ballots used in Russia or China, and that is so for one great reason. We have a great pillar of the democratic system which I believe will prevent anything like that happening in this country. That great pillar is none other than the Canadian press. As our press operates from day to day, during election campaigns, between campaigns, and even in this very chamber, with its piercing eye and ever-listening ear, it will see to it that the ballot continues to mean just what it should mean.

[Mr. Fulton.]

We have heard a good deal about the right hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). I am not going to take up very much time in this connection, since I noticed this week that he is well able to take care of himself. I believe he and his colleagues are well aware of the fact that as agriculture prospers so does the rest of Canada, and I am sure he will see to it that agriculture in this country does prosper. I do not believe anyone in Canadian politics has ever attempted and accomplished more not only for western agriculture but for agriculture in general than has the minister.

A great deal is being said about trade. We hear hon. members say, "Why are we not importing more from Britain, because that is the only country that buys our wheat?" On the other hand they say, "Oh, but we must be careful about what we bring in. You must not bring anything into my constituency that will interfere with any factory already operating there." I contend that we are rather inconsistent when we discuss the question of trade with Britain. We have been told a conference should be called. I believe that before we sponsor a conference of the British commonwealth nations we should call an all-Canada conference, so we can all get our feet under a table and decide just what should be brought into Canada and what should not, and how much we are going to send to Britain. We should do that instead of one moment saying we must have more trade with Britain and the next moment saying we must not bring in lawn mowers or textiles because they interfere with the economics of our own country. These are things which I believe should be given careful consideration.

Now I should like to say just a word or two about the constituency of The Battlefords, which I have the honour to represent. No doubt others have spoken about it previously, but I should like to say just a word in passing. As most of you are aware, the constituency of Battleford reaches from a point thirty miles west of Saskatoon to the Alberta border. No. 5 highway, as it is known now, and which I hope will eventually be known as the trans-Canada highway, cuts right through my constituency. In the centre of it there is the city of North Battleford. In the western part, on the Alberta border, there is the oil town of Lloydminster. The agriculture is chiefly mixed farming, although considerable grain is being grown, but not as much as on the wheat plains farther south. A considerable number of cattle are raised, and we have some of the finest herds of Hereford, Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus cattle that you will find in any constituency in the dominion. In 1947 the largest fat stock show in the dominion was held in the city of North Battleford sponsored by the North Battleford agricultural society.