

average value of Quebec farms, that average generally speaking, according to the last census, being slightly over \$6,000. Both of these counties are very favourably known throughout this entire country, as well as in the United States, for their high grade live stock and dairy cattle. The fact that we are doing considerable business with the people south of the border goes to show that our cattle are always in great demand among our southern neighbours.

As I do not wish to extend this debate indefinitely I shall confine my remarks to the advantages brought to us since 1936 as a result of the trade treaties which this government, upon coming into power effected with the United States. Being in the cattle business for a number of years I am able to bear practical testimony to the assistance given to our farming class by the commercial intercourse which we have had and are now enjoying with our neighbours to the south as a result of the three-way treaty, the benefits of which have already been experienced by our farmers. A comparison of conditions among our farming population to-day with those that existed in 1935 would not be amiss. In 1935 there was very little demand in the United States for our cattle, horses, hay and other farm products, compared with the demand that has existed since 1936. In 1935 I find that ordinary cows were selling for \$45 to \$50, compared with \$65 in 1936 and \$85 to \$90 in 1937-38. Pure-bred stock was also selling during those same years at from \$100 to \$150 and upward according to quality. The duty on hay going into the United States in 1935 was \$5; in 1939 it is \$2.50. The duty on straw in 1935 was \$3, and is now 75 cents a ton. Since 1935 the cattle trade of my county has greatly increased, not only with the United States but also with the United Kingdom. Farmers were receiving in 1938 prices ranging from \$70 to \$90 per head for two and a half year old heifers for export to the United Kingdom, and grade cows commanded for export to the United States \$75 to \$100, which was an unheard of thing from 1930 to 1935. Likewise, registered cows sold at from \$125 to \$200, and our supply was practically exhausted in 1938. As regards the horse trade, the \$30 duty of 1935 exacted on horses entering the United States was replaced by a duty of \$15 as a result of the trade agreement made between this government and the government of the United States.

I call attention to the fact that these are not estimated figures, but figures representing actual transactions. I challenge anyone to

[Mr. Black.]

gainsay the benefits that our farmers have derived as a result of the trade agreements with the United States and the United Kingdom. This shows that our government, our Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler) and our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) are all duly seized of the importance of doing their utmost to help our farmers and other primary producers. We are very thankful for the policies of the Department of Agriculture, and may I say that our farmers appreciate any help afforded them in improving breeds and finding more markets for the profitable disposal of our surplus crops or other farm products.

That the farmers of Châteauguay-Huntingdon know their business is attested by the fact that many champion Ayrshire and Holstein cows and sires were developed by our farmers, and the counties are famous for their high-grade cattle. At the royal winter fair in 1938 the champion Ayrshire sire as well as the champion Ayrshire dairy cow belonged to farmers of my county, an honour to be proud of indeed.

Of great importance to our farmers, although perhaps not on so large a scale as dairying, are the treaty results obtained in our county as affecting apple growers. The interests of the latter have surely not been sacrificed, since our producers have on the British market a preference amounting to 92 cents a barrel over the United States shipper to the United Kingdom.

The great difference between Conservative speakers and Liberal speakers, as shown in this debate, is that the former are anxious about the manufacturing interests, while the Liberals, without sacrificing these interests, are concerned about the primary producers.

Before closing my remarks I do not wish to allow this occasion to go by without giving voice to the satisfaction of the people of my county with the very favourable results which they have derived from the trade agreements with other countries, and especially with the United States. And let me say that in my opinion the best way to solve the unemployment situation is to improve the agricultural situation, to widen the markets for farm produce and to do all in our power to create a better buying power for the farmers of this country. Forty-six per cent of our population live on farms, and if they have adequate buying power this will go a long way towards absorbing unemployment, because the farmer needs more machinery, hardware, lumber, roofing, paint, fencing, furniture, clothing and household supplies. I have had thirteen years' experience behind the