

Interim Supply

might have new revenue; they might be more prosperous than they have been at any time in the last four years, but they will not attribute that to the hens.

Mr. Weir: I ask my hon. friend what he means by that, that they are going to be more prosperous then? That is a rather significant statement to make.

Mr. Rowe: My hon. friend is an experienced politician. If he were not just a little guilty probably he would not ask that question.

Mr. Weir: Not as experienced as you are.

Mr. Rowe: My friend is an experienced politician. I hope it does not cost more in his riding than it did the last time to get re-elected. But about the last two weeks in May or the first week in June about the only revenue the down to earth farmer will have will be coming from the Grit campaign funds across Canada.

Mr. Harris: Haven't you any?

Mr. Rowe: I have heard your pork barrel is fuller than it has ever been before, and I expect things will be as usual. However I do not want to say anything that would embarrass my hon. friend because I know he will be interested in the farmers, for at least a month, just as much as any other candidate.

I am not going to delay the house on this issue. I would be glad to see it go through. I would be glad to see the house prorogue. I would be glad to see the date of the election set. I would be glad to see a change of government, just as I know the people of Canada would. The people of Canada would be glad to see a new government replace this tired government of today. I do say in all sincerity that we have a government today that has disregarded the fundamentals. Never since confederation has a government taken so much from the people in taxes; never have they asked the people to spend less and never before has the government spent more. We have increased our costs of government every year since the war. We are spending more now than we were in any year, except one year, in the war.

Mr. Monteith: We are on top of that, now.

Mr. Rowe: My hon. friend says we are on top of that now; it is going so fast you cannot keep track of it. Never in the history of this country have we bought so much more than we sold as we are doing today. In the months of January, February and March our adverse balance of trade was far beyond anything that we have ever had

[Mr. Rowe.]

before. Last year we bought \$1,300 million more from the United States. Never in the history of world trading nations have so few people bought so much more than they sold. The Minister of Finance must surely be concerned about that. If I were in his position, I could not rest at night and let this condition continue. He looks as though he sleeps just as well as he did when we had a favourable trade balance. In the year 1953 or 1954 we only had an unfavourable trade balance of between \$300 million and \$400 million, but today it is up to about \$1,400 million.

The people to the south of us are friendly. We want to encourage them to invest in this country; we want to encourage them to build plants in Canada, but we do not want them to build plants in Canada and sell us the products of those plants. Thousands and thousands of textile workers are out of work today. The companies in the United States have a market of 160 million. Today our market is only 16 million. In textile products we have only about 60 per cent of our market requirements. The whole 100 per cent of their market is reserved to their own country. Canada's hope for the future is in industrial development. The farmers all across this dominion are hoping today that Canada will become industrialized. We are now using 95 per cent of most of our farm products right here in Canada. In some lines of meat we are using 98 per cent.

Mr. Harris: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rowe: The Minister of Finance applauds and says, "hear, hear"; but for fear that the farmer might get too much for his products he says, "Buy \$5 million worth of turkeys in the United States so you will not get too much for your turkeys". I do not think he begrudges the price of his Christmas turkey but that is really what happens.

Why should we import \$17 million worth of beef and canned products? My hon. friend and the government know that this country can produce, even in this cold climate, more meat than it is producing now. We can produce far more bacon and eggs than we are producing. We exported millions of pounds of those products years ago to the old land. No market is as good as the home market. There is no better hope for agriculture than the development of the home market. If the minister and the remainder of his colleagues are sincere why not apply the same principle that you have applied to potatoes all the way down the line? In fact you have made an awful schemozzle even of that.