

crop production vouchsafed by Providence is by all odds and from all aspects the greatest in volume in the whole history of our Dominion. Indeed, when I state that our grain exports alone for the year through which we have just passed exceed by almost one hundred millions of bushels the exports of 1921, hon. members will see that in so far as the bounty of Providence is concerned, Canada has had the basic conditions upon which a rapid advance should have been made. Our grain exports have multiplied in volume, accounting very largely for the increase in exports shown in the trade returns. Let not any hon. member misunderstand me when I make this criticism: I am as glad as any hon. member of this House that our grain exports have so increased. This is a yearly crop, and the greater the crops the better for us all, provided, of course, that they are produced and sold under conditions that make for the prosperity of those who give the toil and take the risk;—I will refer later on to what those conditions are and will try to ascertain just how far this greater production is reflected in prosperity, how far it is one of those evidences of which a government should boast.

But I find that the great increase in our exports is not even in agricultural products, but that it is to be found in what is known as "wood and the products of wood," largely wood, pulp and paper, raw unmanufactured wood, and wood manufactures. In these days have gone up from \$186,000,000 in 1921 to \$267,553,000 in 1923, an increase in that time of a very large percentage, and of some \$80,000,000 in total product.

These wood products exported are very largely exported in the raw, in fact, there has been an increase in raw wood products exported far greater than in manufactured wood products, an increase so great as almost to startle one who examines the trade returns. I will give them later in my address. But in all respects, wood and the products of wood constitute by far the biggest advance in the trade exports of our country, and the least of all the factors in the advance in wood and the products of wood is the ultimate product, paper; while there has been an increase here, it has been the smallest of the whole, and the biggest increase has been in the raw lumber, the pulpwood and the timber, which is sent in vast quantities from our land. Indeed when one looks at the exports to the United States, he finds that over half, or to be exact, \$226,000,000 odd out of \$422,000,000 worth, consists of wood and the

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products of wood. Now, in this regard I wish to make a reflection. Wood constitutes one of the precious resources of this Dominion. Not only is the resource precious, but it is an irreplaceable resource; it is a fast diminishing resource, it is a resource depleting so rapidly that a few short years in the life of those now living is, at the present rate going to see the end. Wood and wood products we are selling, but when we are selling them we are selling our estate. We are in the position of a man who, competing with his neighbour, shows greater returns year by year by selling the neighbour some of his land. There is nothing to boast of, there is nothing to rejoice over, there is nothing to congratulate ourselves upon in this very rapid depletion of our wood resources. When the trees of Canada are gone, generations will pass before that resource can be restored. But what I want to emphasize most is this: The object of the government should be to see to it that such regulations are applied, such policy adopted as brings within our own Dominion the maximum result for the depletion of these our irreplaceable natural resources.

An examination of the returns at the page I have in front of me shows, as well, that we are selling to the United States some \$49,000,000 of agricultural products, and that during the same year we have purchased from the United States \$78,814,000 odd of agricultural products; or that we a small nation are buying from a country of 110,000,000 of population about \$1.60 worth for every \$1 worth that that 110,000,000 are buying from us. This is the result of course of American tariff policy. It is a contingency that we must always anticipate, a contingency from which we may be freed for some short period of time, but which is bound to recur, just as certainly as the United States is bound to live. This is the condition under which we exist to-day. It is not a healthy condition. Under a consistently pursued tariff policy suited to this Dominion this would not continue. But this government in face of an American policy which shuts the door of the United States in the face of the farmer of Canada holds the door open to American produce coming into this Dominion to compete against the products of the Canadian farm. The Americans control their policy; we control ours, but I do not see any indication in the Speech from the Throne that any Canadian policy is about to be adopted which is going to give the farmers of this country the advantage they deserve and ought to have in the market which they helped to build.