

under our anti-dumping legislation, going to the limit by practically giving the Governor in Council the right of absolute prohibition. It may be argued that in what I have said I am exaggerating. I am simply showing what can be done under the Act, and with these remarks I leave my colleagues to ponder.

Right Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM: Honourable members, I trust that I shall be allowed to violate the rules slightly—not in language, but in discussion—because I am in a position somewhat similar to that of the right honourable member for Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster), who spoke this afternoon. The present Bills are all correlated and can be discussed in effect as one. In addition, it is just possible that when the Customs Tariff Bill comes down there will not be sufficient time to discuss the changes as one might wish to do, and the interjection of a few remarks might be construed as an attempt to prevent the Prime Minister and his colleagues from getting away to the Economic Conference. I say that because I feel that the absence of the representatives of Canada from the Economic Conference at this particular time would be very serious. I look upon their presence at that Conference as of even more importance than their presence at the Imperial Conference itself. At the Imperial Conference, of course, matters of far-reaching import are discussed, but they have nothing to do with the vital question of trade relations. In this connection I should like to express the view that if the Prime Minister and his colleagues can discover some scheme to get the grain and lumber and other products of our country moving into the hands of people who can buy them, they will be accomplishing more to alleviate the present situation than all the tariffs or dumping clauses we can enact. The failure of one crop, the non-sale of the remnant of that crop, and the retention in our warehouses of another year's supply affect employment all along the line. I need not labour that point before honourable members of the Senate.

We are told that the enactment of higher duties will result in putting many men to work. In my humble judgment what is required to put men to work in this country is the sale of our products. What is the permanent value to the country of an expenditure of money and the raising of tariffs to put to work men who are now working only part time, or perhaps not at all, when all that can be done with the goods that they manufacture is to pile them up in ware-

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

houses? The purchasing power of the people has been so affected that there is no demand for the goods, and without a demand our action can only result in locking up capital and postponing the evil day in the hope that something will turn up to alleviate the situation.

I have discussed the present situation and the proposed remedies with manufacturers and others. While they feel that the higher tariff may benefit them somewhat, the great difficulty is that their salesmen come in and report a lack of orders because the people have not money to buy their goods. I want to emphasize that point and to impress upon the Government that if our representatives at the Economic Conference can come to some agreement that will start a movement of our wheat to the markets that it hitherto found, and if the products of our mines and fisheries and forests, through an interchange of trade, can be started moving somewhere, the greatest good to Canada will result. Every producer will take heart, feeling that what he produces will not be left on his hands, but will be purchased by some person at a reasonable price.

Under these circumstances I urge again that from a national standpoint it is suicidal to prevent our representatives from being present at the first session of the Economic Conference, ready to assume what I regard as their greatest duty, and the greatest responsibility that they have.

The main objection that I have to this Bill is that it brings about instability of the tariff. A certain political party has been accused time and again of tinkering with the tariff, thereby creating a feeling of instability. I suggest that in giving one man the right to fix the duties on certain commodities we are making him too powerful, and that the influence on trade of such action cannot be beneficial. I have always been a firm believer in a tariff, and have so stated. I am also in favour of a dumping clause. I have always maintained, however, that the people of Canada, or of any other country, although more or less concerned about the degree of protection granted, are not concerned about it as much as they are about knowing under what conditions they have to do business. When Parliament makes tariffs the people know for one year at least the conditions under which they will have to do business. Under this clause they will not know twenty-four hours in advance what the conditions may be.