

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): The right hon. gentleman has sacrificed the interests of agriculture ever since he has been put into office. What has he done for agriculture?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman asks: What have you done for the basic industry of agriculture? When we came into power we found the New Zealand treaty had been terminated. Canada the year before had bought 40,000,000 pounds of butter from New Zealand.

Mr. McINTOSH: Thirty-five million pounds.

Mr. BENNETT: Forty million pounds of butter in twelve months.

Mr. McINTOSH: Five million pounds too much.

Mr. BENNETT: Not 5,000,000, but 40,000,000 pounds too much. To-day Canada is resuming her place in England as an export country for butter. That is what has happened.

Mr. VALLANCE: What is the price of butter?

Mr. BENNETT: The price of butter keeps pace with the price of other commodities. That affords me an opportunity to make a statement that probably hon. members will like if they are at all interested in getting at the facts. I commend to hon. gentlemen a book that was published in December last by the Duchess of Atholl on "The Conscription of a People." If they want to know about the price of wheat or butter and will read that book, they will understand the situation.

Mr. VALLANCE: We do not need to read about it.

Mr. BENNETT: But those who desire to consider causes and cannot make the investigation themselves, read the words of those who know.

Mr. VALLANCE: What the right hon. member said about the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) is also true of the Duchess of Atholl—her knowledge is purely academic.

Mr. BENNETT: Every quotation in that work is supported by a reference to an original authority in the footnote or in the body of the work. All one has to do is to read that book in order to understand why world commodity prices of agricultural products are what they are. That brings it down to

[Mr. Bennett.]

December, and if you go further and bring it down a month later, you will have a very clear appreciation of the situation with respect to other commodities as well. Moreover, this government last session enacted legislation which gave to the wheat growers of western Canada by way of bonus a larger sum of money than they had ever paid in any year in customs duties.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): By order in council you extended it to British Columbia. Why did you not extend it to the rest of Canada?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman seems to be a little out in his geography, but it is not a matter of great importance. The elevators that were on the Peace River line across the border on the Northern Alberta Railways were included in it, if that is what he means, and some of them were in British Columbia; there is no doubt about that. Does anybody object to that? I thought the hon. member for Vancouver South objected to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): We asked for it last year.

Mr. BENNETT: These are the facts and these are the factors that induced us to take the action we have taken, and we have no apologies to offer for having done so.

Mr. VALLANCE: It is too bad you had not read the book before you made statements during the election campaign.

Mr. BENNETT: The position is as I have indicated. Connected with that of course is the economic conference. I said in London in 1930 that empire trade did not in any sense exclude world trade, for we could not trade exclusively in the empire; we had to trade in the world as well. I made that as part of my observations at the opening of the conference. I desire to point out to this house, however, that in 1902 Sir Wilfrid Laurier in a memorandum which he left with the imperial authorities threatened them in language very polite that if they were not prepared to give the preference in England he was prepared to take action to discontinue the Canadian preference. Did you ever read that? Does my right hon. friend recall the year 1902? Does he recall what Sir Wilfrid Laurier's position then was? The man is still living who wrote that memorandum and left it with the British authorities. My right hon. friend asked why we did not get the wheat quota now. Why did he not get anything for twenty-eight years? Why did he