

Mr. EDOUARD LACROIX (Beauce) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, my comments will be brief. I shall confine my remarks to a few items of the budget which was brought down in the house on May 1.

First, I wish to thank the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) for having fulfilled his promise to revise the tariff.

I also wish to heartily congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) for the splendid budget he brought down last week and which will remain a memorable event in the public records of this country. I want to state that I approve entirely of this budget.

All classes in this Dominion will benefit by this budget, however, since the riding I represent is made up almost entirely of farmers, I shall especially mention the excellent results which the farmers will derive from it, and the clauses intended to protect them.

The reduction in the sales tax of 50 per cent must first be mentioned. This affects both those who make large and small purchases. This tax increases greatly the cost of living. Let us hope that in a near future the government will find it possible to abolish it completely.

The customs duty on farming implements has been reduced; that on tea is now abolished. If we consider the large consumption of tea in Canada, we can realize how important it is for the consumer to have this article on the free list.

The abolition of these duties together with the decreasing of the sales tax will have the effect of lowering considerably the cost of living.

There is, sir, a certain clause in the budget upon which I wish to especially draw the attention of the house; the one which gives Canadian farmers protection by imposing a customs duty of 4 cents per pound on butter imported from British countries, notably from Australia and New Zealand, and 14 cents for butter imported from countries which have a prohibitive tariff against us, such as the United States. The tariff on potatoes is most important. According to the present budget, should the neighbouring republic impose a duty of 90 cents per bushel on Canadian potatoes we demand the same customs duty on American potatoes, this protects us entirely against the importation of this product at all seasons. The same principle also applies to live animals. This will greatly help the farmers and will prevent the importation of animals from countries having a prohibitive tariff against our exports. Fresh and pickled meats, eggs, wheat, flour, oatmeal, are many products of the farm which will equally be protected in the future.

.Mr. Evans.]

The products of the maple tree, which are of the utmost importance in my district, deserve also consideration by the house. It is urgent to assist as much as possible the producer of this national industry. The maple sugar industry needs new markets since the neighbouring republic, by a prohibitive tariff, has suppressed almost entirely the importations of these products. I am glad to note that a measure has been introduced by the government with a view to protecting the products of the maple tree, the measure will come into force about July 1, next. One-seventh of the total production of the maple industry in Canada comes from the county of Beauce. In 1928, Beauce produced about \$580,000 worth of maple sugar and syrup. If we take into consideration the fact that this crop is collected in less than a month, we can gauge its real value to the farmer, especially when we know that this crop is collected after the winter work is done, and previous to the spring sowing, at a time when the farmer is not very busy. From 1900 to 1924, this industry was not protected and was, so to speak, at the mercy of the speculator. There was, in certain years, a great demand for this product, other years the purchases were controlled almost entirely by one buyer and the whole crop was sold at ridiculous prices. The new measure, when in force, will provide for the grading of this product and thereby prevent its imitation.

What are we to think of the abuses which have contributed to destroy almost entirely the value of this industry? What are we to think of this merchant or manufacturer who, in the capital of the province where we are at present living, bought each year four or five cars of this product in order to later on sell 25 or 30 cars of the same product adulterated.

The maple sugar producers of my district and those of the province of Quebec have formed a cooperative society, built sugar-houses and installed modern machinery, and their products are at present of a much superior quality. It is therefore absolutely necessary that this new measure be put into force without delay in order that the producer may be amply protected.

We also have, sir, in the county of Beauce another industry that needs assistance, its market is limited. I mean the industry of pulpwood as carried on by the farmer who finds it necessary to do a little lumbering of his own yearly and sell where he can find a profitable market. I see on the orders of the day a resolution, its purport is to help the paper industry in the province of Quebec and it states: that the time has come to prohibit