

Now let us come back to the marketing act. Sir, the marketing act, like all the legislation concerning the farmer, has been brought in—why? To relieve the farmer in his distress? No, sir. It has been brought in on account of the complaints made by this side of the house to the government that nothing has been done for the farmer since this government came into power. Then they got their scribes busy writing line after line of stupidity, drafting these so-called laws. And afterwards we see them telling the farmers: Here we are helping you; here we are a blessing to you; we will bring you to the promised land. Ah, we know about that. That is a joke. That is bluff. There is nothing to it. If there were something to it, if those hon. gentlemen were in earnest, the first thing they would do would be to remedy the evils by removing the cause of them.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Themselves.

Mr. POULIOT: This is exactly what should be done: the tariff should disappear in order that the good farmers of Rosetown and all other constituencies of Canada could sell their products abroad, and the east could be free to sell its products to the west and the west to sell its products to the east living like brothers in this blessed land of Canada. That is what should be done, but nothing of that is done. We have paper piled ream on ream, Pelion on Ossa, bill after bill, used as a ladder to reach the top of the tariff wall. That Chinese wall had a very high top. Then what happens? There are no steps to come down the other side.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Just one big flop.

Mr. POULIOT: The farmer will break his neck falling down from the high tariff wall on which he has been hoisted by those enactments. Well, sir, we are without information. The hon. gentleman is not in a position to tell this committee whether or not there has been progress due to this legislation. If there was any progress of any kind do you believe for a moment that the minister would not gladly come to this committee and say: Here is what we have done for the farmers; they have sold so many more bushels of wheat, so much of this, so much of that, more than for the corresponding month of the previous year? We should be told that thanks to this legislation the farmers of Canada have sold so much more tobacco, so much more potatoes, so much more of this and that, and you owe that to this government. The minister would

[Mr. Pouliot.]

add: You owe that to myself. If he said that I would not blame him, because it would be an accomplishment. But as matters stand there is no accomplishment of any kind; rather it is a disaster. And how do they try to remedy it? They make it worse by that silly legislation which imposes a fine for everything and obliges everyone to have a licence. The cabinet should sit in the market square selling turnips and cabbages; they should go themselves to sell the farmers' products. They should employ many members who have not fat jobs. The hon. member for Rosetown will surely not be elected at the next election; he should be appointed to peddle the farmers' products from door to door, and then he would be useful to his country—if he could sell anything. If he talked to the prospective purchasers as he does to this house I do not think he would be very successful.

These remarks have lasted ten or fifteen minutes, giving the hon. gentleman time to compare the months during which the marketing act has been in force with the corresponding months of the previous year. Is he in a position now to tell the committee what benefit the farmers have derived from the marketing act for each product since it has been in force?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I am sure the hon. member does not expect any person to take very seriously much of what he has said during the last ten or fifteen minutes. He has just repeated what has been so often repeated by many hon. members opposite, the charge that the present government has been responsible for the restriction of trade especially in connection with the products of the farm and the primary producer. I am certain that he knows full well that it was during the regime of the former government, under the leadership of the present leader of the opposition, that practically all the markets of the world were closed almost entirely to the products of the Canadian farm.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: Give him a chance.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I do not state that as my opinion; it is a matter of record.

Mr. ELLIOTT: You cannot prove it.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Tariffs were raised by country after country against the chief agricultural products of this and other countries, making it impossible for them to enter those markets.

Mr. VALLANCE: Did the minister know that during the election campaign in 1930?