

in the western country we come into very close contact with American people and I have always found them ready to do business, ready to meet the other fellow half way. I submit, too, that this is the right time to take this matter up; if we wait until the Fordney Bill or some other measure of a like character passes the United States House, it will be too late. Now is the time to act, and I repeat that the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's is to be congratulated upon bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I hope that the Government will for once brush aside its partisanship and accept this motion so that it may be adopted unanimously, because I believe that it would be in the interests of the country; that it would be conducive to greater production, and that it would make available to us a market which, if those who understand the conditions are not mistaken, we will need very badly for our products during the next few years.

Mr. W. H. WHITE (Victoria, Alta.): I would like to express, Mr. Speaker, what I consider to be the opinion of the people in my section of the country with regard to the resolution proposed by the member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding), which deals with a matter vital to their products.

The question is not a new one; as it was tried out in our country in 1911. At that time the representation of the province from which I come was but seven members. In the election of 1911, as you know, Mr. Speaker, the issue was reciprocity, and from Alberta six candidates were returned for the party which made reciprocity the issue. Only one, in the city of Calgary, was elected on the opposite side. In Saskatchewan there were at that time ten members and nine candidates supporting reciprocity were returned. That shows clearly the feeling of the people of the West on this question, and I have no reason to believe that they have ever changed their minds in regard to it. In fact, I believe they are more anxious than ever to secure the wider markets which would be afforded by the carrying out of the reciprocity agreement.

In 1911, when this matter was an issue before the people, conditions were very much better than they are now. Our markets were a great deal better; our transportation rates were one hundred per cent lower than they are to-day, and things generally were in a much more satisfactory

condition. I have in my hand a paper that I bought on April 8 on leaving Edmonton, which will show what prices are at the present time. I quote from the Edmonton Journal, a paper which gives its support always to my hon. friends opposite. Hon. gentlemen have spoken of sixteen dollars a barrel being charged for flour, the product of wheat; according to the prices quoted here, flour should not be more than eight or nine dollars a barrel. On that day number one wheat, best grade, was selling at \$1.37 a bushel; in fact, it was selling at as low as 52 cents for the lower grades. The highest price quoted for oats is 23 cents; extra number one feed, 20 cents; number one feed, 17 cents; number two feed, 14 cents; rejected—that is tough oats which it was impossible to get to market last fall owing to car shortage—has been selling at 10 cents a bushel. When we come to consider that it costs 15 cents a bushel to thresh this grain, you can see that things are not in a very prosperous condition. The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) urged that as the United States had an excess supply of various articles and commodities produced by us, if reciprocity were adopted, there would be a danger of their flooding our market with these goods. Well, it is impossible for conditions to be any worse than they are in Alberta, and if there is any benefit to be gained by the obtaining of a wider market, we should avail ourselves of it.

If the Fordney Bill passes in the United States, it will practically cut the western country out of the cattle business. Cattle are selling in our country to-day at from four to eight cents a pound, and it costs a great deal more than that to produce them as fattened cattle. Last fall when the cattle were ready for shipment, the prices ran from 2½ to 7 cents. One trainload of Alberta cattle owned by a man named Maclay, of High River, and shipped from Calgary to Chicago at that time, sold for \$12.50 a hundred. The highest price quoted in that same month by Edmonton and Calgary yards was \$7. If the United States market is cut off, with the British market impossible of access, we will have no outlet for our cattle and the cattlemen of Western Canada will have to go out of business. The Canadian market will not absorb one-fifth of the cattle we have for sale; we have not a market in Canada for all our cattle and if we cannot get to the American market a very profitable business will be done away with. According to the figures quoted by the hon. member for Brome, we exported to