

The Address—Mr. Wright

Foodstuff Imports to United Kingdom
Average Value of Imported Foodstuffs
(Per cwt.)

	1938 £	1947 £	1948 £
Wheat—			
Canadian	0-388	0-983	1-014
Other	0-376	1-572	1-552
Wheat flour—			
Canadian	0-572	1-422	1-410
Other	0-469	1-824	2-172
Bacon—			
Canadian	4-324	7-916	10-054
Other	4-542	8-050	11-373
Cheese—			
Canadian	3-432	7-534	8-706
Other	3-267	8-316	8-709
Eggs, shell—			
Canadian	5-069	10-308	11-777
Other	3-805	9-590	11-951
Condensed milk (unsweetened)—			
Canadian	2-021	3-669	3-734
Other	1-877	3-861	3-699
Casings—			
Canadian	11-613	26-999	32-112
Other	12-235	35-639	45-707
Apples—			
Canadian	0-804	2-425
Other	0-885	2-163	2-581
Tomatoes (canned)—			
Canadian	1-062	2-433
Other	1-098	4-323	4-000
Salmon—			
Canadian	4-318	7-850	10-232
Other	3-858	11-033	11-837

Mr. P. E. Wright (Melfort): This debate has now been in progress for some two weeks, Mr. Speaker, and the general line of approach of the different groups in the house to the problems which we are facing in Canada today has become quite clear. I should like to comment briefly on them, as I see them, and as they have been expressed in the various speeches made.

In the first place, we have the Progressive Conservatives' ideas which have been almost invariably looking backwards. They want to go back to the old wheat board which we had before 1943, and under which we operated on a floor price. Grain was sold in the grain exchange. Unless the exchange went below that price, the grain exchange made any profits that were to be made out of speculation and the people of Canada paid the bill if there was a loss. Others have stated that they would like to go back to the gold standard and the depreciated currency that we have known in the past. I lived in western Canada during the 1930's when we were operating under a depreciated currency, when we were getting approximately \$3.86 for the English pound, when we were exporting our wheat, pork and beef to Great Britain and getting back from eighty cents to eighty-five cents on the dollar. And when we went to purchase the things that

we had to purchase from the United States, such as farm machinery and many of the household articles which we use, we had to send there \$1.17 to get the means of production which we had to have on the farm to produce our wheat at eighty-five cents a bushel and pork at four cents and five cents a pound. Therefore I am not anxious to go back, and I do not think the people of Canada are.

Then they would like to go back to a complete free economy. What does a complete free economy mean? It means monopoly at home and cartels abroad. That is what it means. Certainly neither we of this group, nor do I think the people of Canada, would like to go back to a complete free economy again.

We have the government's approach. They appear to be looking both ways. Some hon. members' speeches would appear to be progressive. They are looking forward; they are looking to the future. Others are looking back. If it is not presumptuous, I should like to give a bit of advice to the government. I was quite a young man when I first went out west. Out there at that time there was a very smart horse dealer who sold me a team of horses. When I got them home and hooked them up and picked up the lines there was one that looked over his shoulder, looked back, and backed up. The other one wanted to go ahead. I never got very far with that team of horses until I traded off the one that was always looking backwards.

Mr. Fulton: Something like your party.

Mr. Wright: I suggest to the Liberals that they should trade off some of their members who are always looking back. They should trade them off to the Progressive Conservatives and then they might get somewhere.

I should like now to turn to western Canada, which has always been a country in which we have looked to next year. It is a next-year country. We have always looked to the future. Today we in this group are looking to the future. We believe that there is a great future for Canada. There is a great future for us in this country if we would just grasp the opportunities we have.

In making their reports—the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) yesterday, and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) a few days ago—the ministers gave a fairly glowing account of production in this country. They used dollars as the basis of their reports. We have a gross national production of something over \$15 billion and a gross agricultural production of some \$2,800