

Agricultural Products Act

liament. It is addressed to newspapers, and reads:

It is hoped that the following full text of Sir Stafford Cripps' interview with Canadian Press will be useful for record purposes.

It is Sir Stafford Cripps' interview with Canadian Press. While my hon. friend's question is quite pertinent when he asked if I were going to read it all, may I say that I am going to read all that has to do with the point that my hon. friends had in mind when they were reading it. But they did not read it all. Here is what the document says on page 3:

Perhaps a special word should be said about United Kingdom food purchases in Canada. Since the end of the war we have been buying foodstuffs from Canada under bulk contracts negotiated by the ministry of food. If the terms of these contracts are examined, it will be seen that although the volume of purchases of bacon, eggs and cheese had to be somewhat reduced in the face of the acute world dollar shortage which hit the United Kingdom especially hard in 1947, we are nevertheless continuing to buy a substantial part of our total requirements from Canada.

I did not hear anyone read any farther than that, and most of those who read did not even read that far. Here is what the next sentence says:

In 1948, for instance—

That is the last year for which we have the records:

In 1948, for instance, Canada was our largest single source of supply for wheat and wheat flour (three-quarters of total United Kingdom imports) . . .

Mr. Harkness: Why would it not come from Canada at the price at which they were getting it?

Mr. Gardiner: Just wait until you get a little more, and perhaps it will apply to your pigs.

Mr. Harkness: Don't worry about my pigs; they are being looked after.

Mr. Gardiner: And they are making you plenty of money?

Mr. Harkness: I hope so.

Mr. Gardiner: I continue:
 . . . bacon (three-quarters of total imports),
 from Canada.

Judging by the figures which have been tossed about, I can understand my hon. friend asking me whether they were tons or hundredweights.

Mr. Fulton: Tell us about apples.

Mr. Gardiner: I spoke about apples; apparently you were not here.

Mr. Fulton: I was here, and your figures were as inaccurate as the rest of your speech.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. Gardiner: My figures are absolutely accurate.

Mr. Fulton: I have the British food commission figures.

Mr. Gardiner: These are British food commission figures.

Mr. Abbott: Oxford interpretation.

Mr. Gardiner: Let me read it again:

In 1948, for instance, Canada was our largest single source of supply for wheat and wheat flour (three-quarters of total United Kingdom imports), bacon (three-quarters of total imports), shell eggs (just under one-third of total imports) and dried eggs (three-quarters of total imports).

Mr. Fulton: What about apples?

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Speaker, I should like anyone of the opposition to tell us of any time, excepting for three or four years during the war, when we ever had a greater proportion of the British market for these food products than we had in 1948.

Sir Stafford Cripps deals with wheat. Since I am shut out of dealing with wheat on this discussion I shall not touch upon it.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): You never were before.

Mr. Gardiner: The document continues:

Towards the end of last year we signed a further contract for 70,000 tons of bacon as well as for substantial quantities of cheese and eggs. If, as at present looks possible,—

And this has been read before.

—we are obliged gradually to limit our imports of these foods somewhat further, it will of course only be after the fullest consultation with your government.

These are Sir Stafford Cripps' statements with regard to the position. They do not indicate from our point of view that the position is as bad as some have been trying to paint it. I thought it necessary to put all of the statement with regard to the position of certain products upon the record so that hon. members would have it.

There are also a few facts with regard to production and consumption in Canada which have a bearing upon the discussions which have been taking place. It has been almost the unanimous intention of those on the opposition side of the house, no matter to which party they belong, to try to leave the impression that farm production is down very low in Canada.

Mr. Fulton: That is what the bureau of statistics says.

Mr. Gardiner: My hon. friend puts a Tory interpretation on the reports of the bureau of statistics when he says that.

Mr. Fulton: No; I just gave the figures.