

Interim Supply

in the riding of the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton. He could not be true to his tradition and say, "I am still a free trader but I just put into effect policies of protection when it is necessary". I would say to the government—and I think the farmers in your riding are saying the same thing—Why are you worried about the price of beef while you are importing millions of pounds of beef in cans? Why are you worried about the prices of farm products that are too low to meet the cost of production? Why are you allowing world products to fix the price? Why do you allow vegetable oils to affect our dairy industry? Why do you import \$5 million worth of turkeys into Canada when our turkey farmers are going out of business? If you can break away from that old, dusty doctrine of yours on potatoes, why can you not do it on turkeys?

Mr. Harris: We did it on turkeys last year.

Mr. Rowe: But you did not do it enough. Your policy has been one of tariff for revenue.

Mr. Harris: We did exactly what the farm industry asked us to do.

Mr. Rowe: I mentioned that matter the other night. Why do just what they ask you to do? Why not give the farmer some leadership? Why do you want to be led around by the farmers of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McCann: That is a bad break.

Mr. Rowe: Listen. You have been accustomed to being led around in international affairs. You are led around by the United States of America. You have had no farm policy yourselves for many years.

You have lost every valuable, worth-while overseas market for agriculture. You have lost those markets twice in the history of your party. You are losing them again now.

Mr. Harris: By reason of high prices in Canada, I suppose.

Mr. Rowe: Tell the farmers in your riding or come over into my riding and tell them you are getting prices that are too high.

Mr. Harris: I did not say too high prices, I said high prices.

Mr. Rowe: These high prices are still the lowest returns for any industry in Canada in view of the cost of production. Nobody knows that better than the Minister of Finance. If agricultural production is vital to this country in time of peace and most necessary in time of war, then the farmers of Canada should have a square deal. We do not need to be told that our prices are too high. The

dairymen of Canada will not be satisfied by telling them that vegetable oils are produced by some people who do not even wear 50 cents worth of clothes, and are thus produced very cheaply. They do not need to be told that you can import cheese and butter from New Zealand and Australia very cheaply because you can put a \$5 blanket over a cow in wet weather in those countries, whereas in Canada you have to build a \$10,000 barn.

Canada is not the great agricultural country that some farmers like to boast about. Canada produces agricultural products at somewhat of a disadvantage. We are not a tropical country. If it is vital to us in time of peace, and even more vital in time of war, to keep a healthy agriculture then we should have a degree of protection for that industry. There is no industry in Canada that needs protection more than Canadian agriculture. There is no single industry in Canada that suffers as much. There are about one-third less farmers now than there were when this government took power. Even the Minister of Finance will agree with that. I am not going to go into all the reasons for that, but one of the reasons is that the young farmers of this country have lost hope. They say that so far as the government is concerned theirs is the forgotten industry. Agriculture never was more highly organized than it is today. We have our 4-H clubs, farmers' unions, federations of agriculture, so that agriculture is well organized, but wholly dissatisfied, disgruntled, discouraged, and discontented. The farmers are striving, struggling and doing their best in order to try and make this the great industry it was intended to be.

Why should agriculture be the lagging industry today when so many other industries are flourishing? The Minister of Finance says he imposed certain duties on vegetables, certain duties on turkeys and certain duties on poultry. When he looks at the list and sees what is happening surely he will agree that he has not put on enough. Hon. members who will be driving up and down the side roads during the election campaign will see old hen houses with broken windows and cobwebs around the windows.

Mr. Weir: They will see a lot of good ones, too.

Mr. Rowe: You will not see many new ones. You will see turkey pens without any turkeys in them. You will see for sale signs on the farm gates. The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Commerce have been telling the farmers how prosperous they have been. Perhaps they will be more prosperous during the last two weeks of May before harvesting. They