

Imperial Conference—Trade Agreements

increase in the production of copper in Canada, and incalculable amounts are available. For the past few years, however, there has been a continuous decrease in exports, and I doubt very much whether the new agreements will help. The following table will serve to show the total value of copper exports from the years 1929 to 1932, and will give a comparison of the exports to the United Kingdom and to the United States:

Year	Total Export	To United Kingdom	To United States
1929. . . .	\$28,646,684	\$1,623,376	\$23,829,452
1930. . . .	39,628,652	657,117	35,739,195
1931. . . .	23,483,044	259,587	22,834,707
1932. . . .	19,802,750	3,051,022	14,398,526

We have been told that the duty of four cents per pound imposed by the United States has caused the decrease in copper exports. We must remember however that the decrease began in the year 1930, because we find that while in 1930 the exports were valued at \$35,739,195 those of 1932 were valued at only \$14,398,526. The Ontario Refining Company of Sudbury which at one time employed 3,000 men has been closed since 1930. I conclude therefore that the duty has not been the cause of the decrease.

Under the new agreements products of the mines will be faced with the same difficulties as wheat. They will have to compete with world prices. By the agreement now under consideration we will lose our best customer, namely, the United States. There is no doubt about it; we only have to read and study article 4 of the treaty. It is very plain, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to have to compete with world prices on these products. We have to do so now, and I cannot see how these new agreements are going to benefit us.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. HURTUBISE: I should like now to make a few remarks with regard to agriculture. Although a medical man, I had the privilege as a young man of working on a farm, and ever since I have cherished a great sympathy and admiration for the farmer. For the past few years, however, I have followed with alarm the decline of the industry and I realize today more than ever before the truth of the old saying that without prosperous agriculture no country can itself be prosperous.

What has been the cause of the present state of affairs? What has been the cause,

[Mr. Hurtubise.]

in this country as in others that have pursued the same policy, of this present crisis in agriculture as in many other lines? I do not want to pose as an economist, but after reading all that has been said and written on the subject, I am firmly convinced of this: that the main causes of the present crisis are centralization of capital; high tariff policies; privileges granted to special industries; watered stocks and, summarizing, I might say, legalized abuses against the labouring classes and the consumer.

There is one class of people who have been suffering most from these erroneous and discriminatory policies, and that is the farming community. For years the farmer has been bearing the burden increasingly and now he is crushed down, so that unless something is done immediately, unless the government comes to his rescue, he is faced with liquidation not only in isolated parts but throughout the country. This is far from being the condition which the farmer expected if the Bennett government came into power.

For some years now concerted action has been taken in the back to the land movement, and I want to congratulate the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) on the laudable efforts he has made in connection with that endeavour. I, myself, have cooperated with a local organization which has done good work. But what is the use of all that work if we do not take care of those already on the farm? I do not believe that the agreements submitted to us today are going to improve the farmer's condition. We should first remove the causes I have just mentioned, among them being high tariffs; otherwise commodity prices, or in other words the cost of living, will not come down. It will be the same thing over and over again—those on the farms rushing to the urban centres for a living or for some support in the absence of work. For years this is chiefly what has happened. There should be understanding and cooperation between the federal and the provincial governments to put a stop to the deruralization of the country. With our geographical situation as it is, with our natural resources as they are, and with our national inclination, there has been too much industrialization in this country. A greater effort should be made to keep our rural education rural and to make our urban education more conversant with rural life. Too many of our public men have no knowledge of farm life. Let us turn the public hearts and minds to agriculture. Let us encourage home industry. Let us take particular care of our basic industry, which is farming.