

Mr. MACDOUGALL: If lower prices are good, would it not be a good thing for those owners of wheat to reduce the price of wheat that is being held in western Canada, and sell it for 25 cents a bushel?

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): I see what my hon. friend means. He asks, Why do you not sell your product lower than anybody else? To my mind that would not remedy the situation.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: No, but it would be following out your explanation logically.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): What is it that keeps prices high? It is of no use to lower the price of a single commodity unless you can bring the prices of all commodities down. What keeps the price of a commodity at a high level? It is the universal system of tariff all over the world which keeps prices up. There should be a system whereby prices of all commodities would be reduced to the point where the people could buy them.

There is some talk of revision of the Australian treaty. We bought from her last year something like \$3,500,000 worth of goods and sold to her about \$19,420,000 worth. The duty we collected on that trade was \$133,770. There is not very much produced in Australia that comes into competition with our products, and there is not very much we ship into Australia that comes into competition with her products; why not have free trade between the two countries? That would be a step in the direction of empire free trade, and a step towards the resolution of my hon. friend (Mr. Fansher) which aims at extending the British preference. It would not hurt any Canadian industry; it would help both countries and we would lose very little revenue by it.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): I would like to take a few minutes to express what I conceive to be the opinion of the people in the district from which I come. I have a standing arrangement with an hon. gentleman on the other side not to vote in his absence, but I would like to express my preference for and my support of the amendment offered by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner).

As has been said so often, the farming industry, which is the great basic industry of this country, is at the present time in a critical condition. I believe almost any farmer in Canada would sell out, if he could. Not being able to do that, however, he simply must struggle along and do the best he can. It is not necessary for me to repeat the arguments which have been advanced or to

labour this point in particular. We know that in a normal year we grow something in the neighbourhood of 500,000,000 bushels of grain. Each man, woman and child consumes about five bushels per year so that we have food enough for 100,000,000 people. Our population is only 10,000,000. The same thing applies, to some extent, to meat and cheese, and to a large number of products. At the present time there is over-production throughout the country, and the farmers are suffering on that account. Perhaps in no district in Canada have the farmers suffered more than in southern Alberta, where they tried the great venture of raising large crops of wheat and grain. This turned out unfortunately, and now they are turning to mixed farming and sheep raising.

It has been clearly established that this treaty provides a market for lines of manufactured goods, and it thus helps those engaged in these industries to prosper. However, it has not been shown that it is of any benefit to the farmer or to the great basic industry of agriculture, which at the present time greatly needs help. There is a strong presumption that it is not only of no benefit but is somewhat of an additional handicap instead. It has been often said that we should manage our own affairs in our own way, and with that in mind I venture to suggest this condition of affairs to the government, so that in the discussion of new treaties at any economic conference at least they will know some of the handicaps under which a great basic industry of this country is struggling.

The house divided on the subamendment (Mr. Stevens) which was negated on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Adshead,	Garland (Carleton),
Anderson (Toronto- High Park),	Geary,
Arthurs,	Grimmer,
Barber,	Hanson,
Bell (Hamilton West),	Hoeken,
Bell (St. Antoine),	Hubbs,
Bell (St. John-Albert),	Jones,
Bennett,	Ladner,
Black (Yukon),	Macdonald (Richmond- West Cape Breton),
Black (Halifax),	Macdougall,
Bowen,	McGibbon,
Cahan,	McQuarrie,
Charters,	McRae,
Clark,	Maybee,
Cowan,	Murphy,
Dickie,	Peck,
Embury,	Perley (Sir George),
Ernst,	Price,
Esling,	Rennie,
Fraser,	Ross (Kingston City),
	Ryerson,