

Slaughtering—852,222 head, against 868,679 in 1933.

Average prices at stockyards, \$5.60, against \$5.35 in 1933, for all grades.

Average price for good handyweight lambs at Toronto \$7.17 and at Winnipeg, \$4.75. Toronto price range \$4 to \$12, Winnipeg's \$2 to \$10.50.

Exports practically nil. Listen to this, those of you who remember how much mutton we used to import from New Zealand not long ago; Canada is now on a self-supporting basis as far as mutton and lamb are concerned. Some record, I say.

The next thing to which I have to direct the attention of the house is the improvement in the fruit and vegetable markets. They have been steadied by the intelligent application of the dumping and exchange duties and things of that kind, not the hare-brained application that prevailed during the time of my hon. friends opposite. As a result of the proper application of tariff measures of one kind and another there were imported into Canada last year 700 carloads less of apples than in 1930. Would any hon. member tell me that the fruit growers of the Okanagan or of any fruit-growing district throughout Canada do not realize what that means to them? That is all a result of a little good judgment, of knowing how to apply the tariffs intelligently so as to get major benefits from their application.

Mineral production was very close to its all time peak, I think in the neighbourhood of \$278,000,000, but I shall have something more to say about that in a minute.

Since the low point of the depression in 1933, 340,000 people have been put to work. Then I turn to some financial measures, for instance, the establishment of the Bank of Canada, a major operation I should say, one which will have a very material effect on the commercial and industrial life of this country. Bank interest rates are down. That is because the government applied pressure to the banks. Heretofore the situation was that we had on the statute books an act that provided for a maximum interest rate of 7 per cent, but there was no penalty provided and the consequence was that that provision was flagrantly violated. Now, severe penalties are imposed for evasion of the statute in any form. Since 1933, this government has converted \$1,100,000,000 of outstanding debt to lower rates of interest with a resulting saving of \$14,600,000 in interest charges. That is an accomplishment, something for which this government certainly should get credit. In these days we hear a great deal of talk by irresponsible people with regard to the reduction of interest rates, but the government of this country has been

carrying on quietly, going its way from day to day, discharging its ordinary duties and doing something concrete to improve conditions in that way. People who had money to loan were encouraged to charge these high rates of interest during the tenure of office of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Then we have increased car loadings on both railways, together with an improvement in their earnings. The government also provided assistance for the agriculturists of this country. Last session we passed the Natural Products Marketing Act. I need not say anything about that at the present time, because it is only commencing to operate, but I venture to say that when full advantage is taken of the provisions of that act it will mean a great deal to the agricultural communities of this country. We also passed the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, the value of which to the farmers of Canada it is difficult to estimate at the present time. But when you look at the farm mortgage debt of this country you can imagine the benefit that is going to accrue from that act. We also amended the Farm Loan Act, under which credit is to be advanced to those farmers who are in need of long term money. And mark this, Mr. Speaker; the former government provided an amount of only \$10,000,000 under this act. They did not want to get their feet very wet, but we have increased that amount to \$90,000,000, and we are not afraid that the agricultural communities of this country will misuse that amount of money. Last year we also provided for a public works program amounting to \$40,000,000 of which \$8,000,000 has been expended already, with the remainder to be spent during the present year, and this is such a reasonable and businesslike government that I am very hopeful that we will have an additional amount provided before the end of this session.

In addition to all this we have the assistance that has been extended by the central government to the provinces and municipalities that found themselves in difficulties. I am not going into this matter to any great extent, but I should like to note what has been done for the province of British Columbia, from which I come. On March 28 the net loans outstanding to the province of British Columbia amounted to \$15,014,234. The total cash given British Columbia for relief amounted to \$14,158,837, while \$3,643,682 had been spent on relief camps in that province. In addition \$352,987 had been expended in connection with the national parks and public works construction relief program. And I do