

*Agricultural Products Act*

The first bit of evidence is the number of contracts into which the government has entered. A few years ago the government had twenty-two or twenty-three contracts, but this year it has only three. A second item of evidence is the amount of the products we are asked to deliver under each of these contracts. It has been lessening from year to year. In recent years our contract with Britain has been up to 690 million pounds. This year it is only 160 million pounds, or less than one-quarter of what it was five years ago. With respect to cheese, it is only two years since we were supplying 142 million pounds. This year the contract is for 50 million pounds. A few years ago the contract for eggs amounted to 89 million pounds. This year the contract is for 46 million pounds. According to the statement of the minister, we once supplied beef to Great Britain to the extent of 184 million pounds, but this year we are supplying none.

A third item of evidence that this market is disappearing is that the export of certain commodities has completely disappeared. I do not need to tell this house what has occurred in connection with apples. Instead of having a market in Great Britain for apples, this government is paying the people in Nova Scotia to cut down the apple trees. It is reported that it is paying \$4 per tree for this purpose, and that it is costing the government \$1,500,000 a year. Another commodity for which we have no sale over there is one of our coarse grains—oats. Another is poultry. Others are beets, potatoes, and canned tomatoes. Some of these products we never sent over there in large quantities, but they all helped to make up the huge total of our export trade in agricultural products.

A fourth item of evidence of our vanishing market is that Britain is now hunting all over the world for new sources of supply of these and other food commodities. We have the evidence of Mr. Strachey, who is Minister of Food over there, that Britain now has forty long-term contracts under which she is seeking to get food and other commodities from other parts of the world.

A fifth item of evidence is that Britain is developing new sources of supply wherever she can find suitable opportunities. One might mention the continent of Africa, where she is spending scores of millions of dollars in development for the production of food for Britain. All hon. members will have read about the ground nuts projects. Many will have heard also about the expenditures Britain is making in research in an effort to make Africa a great livestock continent, and the progress that has been made in that regard. To the extent that Britain finds other markets and other sources

of supply elsewhere than in Canada, to that extent we lose our markets.

Another item of evidence I take from some of those who have visited Britain recently. One of them is the premier of British Columbia, Hon. Byron I. Johnson. On his return a few weeks ago, he is reported in the *Canada's Weekly* as having made this statement:

I have been discouraged by the picture of the British market which I have brought back with me on a recent trip. It is rather discouraging to see the United Kingdom sending to European countries goods which are thus not available to Canadians who want them . . . British Columbians must be prepared to buy more British goods or be faced with the loss of one of the main markets for their produce.

One of his associates, the minister of lands and forests in the British Columbia government, Hon. E. T. Kenney, had this to say:

The waning market in the United Kingdom for British Columbia lumber and the piling up of lower grade lumber stocks is causing concern to the industry and the government. Out of a 2½ billion feet annual average cut for the last five years the United Kingdom has taken 40 per cent, the domestic market 37 per cent and the United States and the empire the rest. Now that the United Kingdom market has been largely lost as a result of world-wide conditions, the industry is faced with serious problems . . .

Still further evidence comes from another source, one whom most hon. members of this or any other house will not question. I refer to Sir Stafford Cripps, chancellor of the exchequer in the United Kingdom government. A dispatch in the *Ottawa Journal* of February 22 reads as follows:

Britain will buy less food from Canada unless Canada buys more from Britain, Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said today.

I will quote one or two brief extracts from his words which are in quotation marks.

**Mr. Mayhew:** Would the hon. gentleman mind putting on *Hansard* the dates of the articles from which he is quoting? He was quoting from Mr. Johnson, the premier of British Columbia. I think he will find that article was published in September of last year, six months ago, not a few weeks ago. He was also quoting the remarks of Sir Stafford Cripps.

**Mr. Bracken:** The quotation from Mr. Johnson is found in the February 18 issue of *Canada's Weekly*.

**Mr. Mayhew:** What about the Cripps quotation?

**Mr. Bracken:** I am dealing with the remarks of Sir Stafford Cripps as reported in the *Ottawa Journal* of February 22, 1949, just a month ago. To continue with what Sir Stafford Cripps says as reported there:

It would be rash to hope for any increase in our total purchases in the near future. Indeed, it is