

I wonder do those men at Ottawa fully realize what we are struggling against in here? Is it possible for you to make it plain to them that horses and cattle are dying in here by the dozens, simply starving, and we have nothing to put in the crop with.

Those are very dark conditions to have to lay before you. Here is a further suggestion, a rather novel one; I wish you would pay attention to what it says:

We are completely out of funds and require money for actual necessities and to alleviate our temporary pecuniary embarrassment.

We would ask you to take up the matter on the floor of the House if necessary.

Our request is, that we be given a cash grant sufficient to give each signer from fifty to one hundred dollars apiece.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any department in connection with the Dominion Government that would be very willing to carry out the suggestion made by this individual, and even if there should be there would be plenty of hon. members here ready to overrun that department without very much delay. I have simply read these extracts from letters to give you an idea of financial conditions in the part of the province that I have the honour to represent, and knowing these conditions I will make a few deductions therefrom. One is the need for absolute economy. I was pleased to hear that note struck by several hon. members in this House—the need for absolute economy. Some hon. members have made suggestions as to how we should economize, and possibly there is some virtue in them. We have a tremendous public debt, running as it does to some two billion three hundred and forty odd million dollars. That is a tremendous debt to rest upon Canada, and it is necessary that it should be met and that the money should come from somewhere to meet our obligations when they fall due.

Now some doubtless will think, especially hon. members sitting to my right who compose what is called the official Opposition, that is very good and sufficient reason why we should continue to have a tariff in Canada. Very well; let us look at that point for a moment. If we have a tariff in the country for raising money and that money is raised in a good and economical way all well and good; if not, it is not so well nor so good. I would like to give an illustration to show that the method of raising money for paying off our public debt by a customs tariff is not an economical method. If hon. members are good at arithmetic let them please follow these figures. I used to follow the school teaching profession and I only wish I had a

blackboard here and a piece of chalk to more effectively demonstrate my point. We will suppose that a suit is bought from Great Britain costing over there the sum of \$10. The tariff duty on fabrics entering Canada is 30 per cent, which means that when that suit enters Canada its cost is \$13. It goes into the wholesaler's hands and he adds one-fourth to the cost of \$13 to him, which is an addition of \$3.25 to the \$13, making the charge to him for selling \$16.25. That suit goes into the retailer's hands. He adds 50 per cent to the cost price to him, which is \$8.15 added to \$16.25 making \$24.40. Now if a person went into the store and bought this suit of clothes he would have to pay \$24.40 at the present time.

Let us suppose there was no tariff. The original cost would be \$10. It would go into the wholesaler's hands, and he would add one-quarter, \$2.50, making \$12.50. It would then go to the retailer, and he would add 50 percent or \$6.25, bringing the cost up to \$18.75. Notice the difference. In the one case, it is \$24.40 and in the other case \$18.75. That means that the consumer pays out \$5.65 for a tariff of \$3. But does that \$3 tariff all go into the Dominion coffer? I think not. It is estimated, on very good authority, that to keep up all the expenses in connection with the collection of the customs tariff, it takes fully one-half, so that out of the \$3 not more than \$1.50 in cash actually goes into the Dominion coffers for the payment of the public indebtedness. That means, Mr. Speaker, that it takes \$5.65 to put \$1.50 into the Dominion treasury. It costs almost \$4 to collect \$1. Is that economy? I think not. Several hon. members have dealt with the tariff, and much can be said in regard to it. I do not know as it would be advisable to prolong the discussion. As intimated before, we have plenty of arguments to put forth, to show that the old, antiquated method of collecting revenue by tariff is too costly for this country at the present time to tolerate.

Besides the need for absolute economy there is the need for remedial farm legislation. This applies particularly to our western country. It is absolutely necessary, owing to the difficult conditions of the western country, that we should have this remedial legislation to enable the farmer to continue. Of course we know that the great need out there is rain, and it is beyond the pale of this honourable body to produce rain. Some of our western citizens last year endeavoured to have