

or on the other side some poor man or widow has been deprived of the pension for weeks or months; and it can be readily understood how these cases, when ventilated before an audience of soldiers, give rise to a spirit of unrest. I would plead with the Minister of Militia and with all those in authority that every effort should be made to rectify these mistakes at the earliest possible moment. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the soldier who left his family and business to fight for freedom should be, and will be, the best citizen, and that he will not allow the democratic institutions he fought for to be destroyed by the slacker or by the profiteer who stayed at home.

We have been told by many speakers during this debate that the tariff is responsible for the present high cost of living. But I would like to call attention to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we have had practically the same tariff for many years. The largest

reductions have been made by this 2 a.m. Government and previous Governments supported from this side of the House. We had the same tariff when prices were low. The Government was not then condemned for the high cost of living, and it cannot be legitimately condemned for the same thing to-day. It is quite true that in certain cases ad valorem duties have created a hardship. I happened to listen to my friend the member for Regina the other day when he brought up the question of dried fruits, and stated that the cost on the primary market, the country of origin, had increased 300 per cent, and consequently, of course, the ad valorem duty would increase to the same extent. In such a case I think the Government might be well advised, where the market fluctuates so violently, to put on a special duty. But I would like to call the attention of the House to the fact that, after all, this matter—and it is one of the specific cases brought before the House—is a very minor one. The total duty on dried fruits last year was \$166,000, and that included every variety of dried fruit imported into Canada.

I have listened with much interest, as I always do, to the speech of the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark). His panacea would be general free trade. I would like to call his attention for a moment to about one-tenth of the items I have on my list. We collected last year on automobiles and parts thereof \$6,008,000. At the ordinary school rate of 6 to 10 mills per dollar, which is the average rate in the province of Ontario, this would mean an assessment upon

[Mr. Arthurs.]

\$600,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 of land value. This is an answer partly to the hon. member for Red Deer and to the Ex-Minister of Agriculture. In other words, four times that amount would represent 1 per cent upon all land at the valuation given by another member, which was \$4,000,000,000. We received in duties last year upon musical instruments—which, after all, would, I think, be legitimate game for tariff—\$1,039,000; upon fruits and nuts, \$2,264,000; upon hats and bonnets, \$1,090,000; upon meats of all kinds, \$3,265,000. I would like my hon. friends to come down to some of the counties of Ontario and repeat to the farmers there the speeches they are making, first, as regards deserted farms in Ontario and, secondly, as regards protection. This duty of \$3,265,000 at most cannot be more than 1½ cents a pound, and cannot be responsible for that very alarming price of 60 to 65 cents a pound for bacon. We also received upon ribbons \$451,000; upon perfumery, \$161,000; upon paper and manufactures thereof,—largely fine writing paper; and if not fine writing paper, it should not come into Canada, because we have all the raw material that we need for many years to come—\$2,139,000; upon jewellery, \$300,000; upon fancy goods, \$987,000; upon curtains, \$105,000; upon corsets, \$135,000; upon buttons—in spite of my hon. friend from North Waterloo (Mr. Euler), depreciating the fact that all the button machines had to pay duty, they apparently kept their prices high enough in North Waterloo to force us to import from other countries and to pay \$296,000 duty on buttons alone; on books, \$991,000; on oilcloth and matting, \$735,000; on photo instruments, \$254,000; on silks, \$3,486,000. Will the hon. gentleman say that we should have free trade in that article also, and proceed to collect that amount of revenue from the farmers?

The revenue collected from duty on spirits amounted to \$3,709,000. That is a past luxury; we may not get that next year. The figure for soap is \$282,000, for tobacco, \$813,000, and for vegetables, \$1,070,000.

I now come to an item which has been very much discussed, at least throughout Ontario—that of boots and shoes. We received by the way of duties on leather boots and shoes, imported from all countries last year, \$934,000, or practically 12 cents per head of population. I venture to say that ninety per cent of these shoes were high grade shoes for the city trade only. Travellers for American concerns do not go to the small towns and villages;