

The Address—Mr. Fulton

can carry on their little tête-à-tête. I assure them it does not bother me because if their statements to each other are as wildly inaccurate as their statements to the public they probably would not be very edifying anyway.

Mr. Abbott: I can always follow my hon. friend better when I read him in *Hansard* afterwards.

Mr. Fulton: That is more than we can say for some of the minister's statements and for some other statements which do not always appear in *Hansard* in the way in which they are heard in the house.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the hon. member is reflecting on *Hansard*.

Mr. Fulton: Far from it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Abbott: I do not think so.

Mr. Fulton: I intended no reflection whatsoever on *Hansard*. Quite the other way around. I think this situation we have now, and the conflicting statements coming from the ministers as to whether or not there are any agricultural surpluses in Canada, are sufficient to warrant us calling for a meeting of the agricultural committee before which experts of the various departments might appear and let us have the facts and figures as to agricultural production in Canada and the existence or otherwise of surpluses in these various commodities.

Yesterday when the Minister of Agriculture was dealing with the question of the marketing of our agricultural goods in the United Kingdom and sterling areas he resorted to what has become a favourite trick. When confronted with a situation for which he has no real answer he went back to the 1930's, and he tried once again to say that the whole responsibility for the situation rests on the Bennett government and the imperial trade conference of 1932. I should like to refer to what the minister said yesterday as reported at pages 572 and 573 of *Hansard*. As a matter of fact he went back away beyond 1932. He started back in 1877. This government has been in power for fifteen years and yet they are still blaming what goes on today on what Sir John A. Macdonald said in 1877. The Minister of Agriculture is reported as follows:

All I want to say about it is that from the time Sir John A. Macdonald made his speech at Stanstead, Quebec, in 1877 to the present day Conservative policy has been a policy opposed to trade as a solution for the problems of this country, and the policy of the C.C.F. party as announced is the same. On the other hand, the policy of the Liberal party has been one of trade in order to improve the affairs of this country.

At that point he was interrupted by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Hatfield) who said "free trade." Incidentally, I

[Mr. Fulton.]

should like to differ there even though that member is a member of my own party. I should like to point out that the Liberal party, avowedly a low tariff party, has in fact during the period of its power had higher tariffs than any other government in the history of Canada. The minister continued:

Therefore we have had good times when we have had a Liberal government in power, and we have had bad times when we have had a Conservative government in power.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fulton: I am glad to hear my hon. friends applaud that statement because perhaps they will applaud the figures I am now about to give them. If they will look at the dominion bureau of statistics volume entitled "Trade of Canada for the year ended December 31, 1948" volume I, there they will see the record of our trade with the United Kingdom and other countries year by year up to and including 1948. If they will look at those figures and examine particularly the ten years from 1928 to 1937 inclusive they will see that the decline in our trade with the United Kingdom, the sterling area and all other foreign countries started in the year 1928, and continued with increasing velocity up to the year 1930. Certainly it has to be admitted it continued until 1932. A Conservative government came into power in 1930 but the downhill momentum was so tremendous that it could not be arrested until 1932.

In that year steps were taken to correct it and restore Canada's trade with the sterling areas. Those efforts were successful. If hon. members will analyse these figures they will find in every year from 1932 on our trade increased, and continued to increase, gradually working its way back to the position it was in before it was wrecked by the policies of the King government as they took effect in the years 1928 to 1930. I have the figures here, Mr. Speaker, and I should like permission to table them in *Hansard*. First, however, I should like to make this analysis. If you take the table showing Canadian exports to the United Kingdom you will find the highest figure before 1930 was in 1925; the lowest year was in 1931. From 1928 to 1930 our exports to the United Kingdom declined by 47 per cent, nearly one-half the volume. They reached their lowest point in 1931 and they started up again in 1932. From 1931 to 1935 they increased by 77 per cent under the Bennett government as against a decrease of 47 per cent under the King government.

Taking Canadian exports to other British countries, the highest figure before the depression was in 1929. They reached their