

The Budget—Mr. Gobeil

at least on which they are closely united. It is that one particular argument that has been so frequently used against this government, namely that of decreasing commodity prices. More particularly has that argument been raised in connection with butter prices. How many times has this house listened to these words: "Butter was selling for so much in 1929, but in 1931, 1932 or 1933—as the case may be—"it is only so much."

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Or so little.

Mr. GOBEIL: I did not hear what the hon. member said. I do not object to hon. members using that argument, if they wish, until the next general election. I feel quite sure that such an argument will not lead them out of the valley of humiliation. Unless they have made up their minds that they do not wish to come back to the house after the next election I really cannot understand why they still use that argument. In the first place it will do them no good, because Canadian dairy farmers are not fools. This argument is certainly the poorest hon. members opposite could put forward. There is one way and one only of establishing relatively high or low prices on any one commodity, and that is by comparing the price paid in Canada with that paid in other countries where it is produced or sold. Every Canadian knows that a comparison of present prices with those obtaining four or five years ago is a childish and ridiculous procedure. People outside the house would not dare do it, but it would seem that hon. members opposite have not abandoned the practice. Outside the house we never hear such comparisons, because they cannot be substantiated by facts. Hon. members opposite cannot mention one country in the whole world where commodity prices are the same to-day as they were three or four years ago. There remains, however, the infallible method of comparing the prices paid in other countries with those paid in Canada. If we follow that method, in what position does Canada stand to-day?

Speaking in this House of Commons on October 20 last, I placed on Hansard some comparative butter prices on the three markets in which we are interested. I refer to the markets in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. The quotations I gave at that time were for different months in the years 1930, 1931 and 1932. I am sorry that at this time I find it necessary to repeat them, but I feel I will be justified in so doing, and for that reason shall place them again on Hansard. My purpose in placing these figures before the house is, in the first place,

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to show that there has been a change in butter prices not only in Canada but in the other two countries, and, in the second place, to show that the Canadian position has been improving. The following is a comparison of butter prices in the three markets I have mentioned:

	Canada	United States	England
June, 1930.	27.13	32.93	28.02
July, 1930.	27.59	35.24	28.95
August, 1930.	28.67	38.92	28.53
December, 1930.	28.63	32.18	23.43
January, 1931.	30.80	28.50	24.11
February, 1931.	31.61	28.50	25.74
March, 1931.	31.13	28.88	25.32
March, 1932.	26.31	22.61	18.94
April, 1932.	20.06	20.04	19.38
May, 1932.	16.81	18.83	17.81
August, 1932.	19.21	20.31	17.81

Speaking a few days ago the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard) placed a few figures on Hansard. He gave the prices of butter for the months of January, February, November and December of 1932. I shall not dispute his figures; I take it for granted they are correct, but they are not for the same months as the figures I gave. I quite agree with the hon. member that since the winter of 1930, Canadian prices have been fluctuating, bringing about a condition under which in some months the United States prices were higher and in others Canadian prices were higher. On the whole, however, Canadian prices gained. The hon. member gave figures which would indicate that in the four months there was a margin in favour of United States prices of anywhere from two cents to three cents per pound. But he went farther than that. In reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) he gave the following figures for 1928:

	Canada cts. per lb.	United States cts. per lb.
January, 1928.	35.50	48.90
February, 1928.	36.50	46.50
November, 1928.	39.90	50.70
December, 1928.	40.60	50.80

This was a comparison of Canadian with American prices for some time back, showing a difference of anywhere from five cents to ten cents per pound in favour of American prices. Since the winter of 1930, however, the difference has very often been in our favour, and seldom in favour of the United States farmer.

May I remind the house that several hon. members opposite have referred to my remarks of October 20. I refer particularly to the hon. member for St. Johns-Iberville (Mr.