

said. At different times, however, he has been able to give to the press, certainly to one or two particular journals, information which when published has come pretty near to hitting the mark. There have appeared now and then, as the occasion seemed to render opportune, articles in the press which were more or less inspired and which I think we may be justified in taking as representing fairly accurately the position as my right hon. friend has wished to have it known by the people at the time.

I have in my hand a copy of an article which appeared in the *Mail and Empire* of November 5. It is headed: Acid test for King. Ability to secure mutually satisfactory agreement challenged. It begins:

Leaving on Wednesday afternoon for Washington to hold reciprocity conversations with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, federal Prime Minister, is credited in political Ottawa with the courage to face at the outset of his regime the problem destined to rank as one of the acid tests of his administration, namely, the ability of his government to conclude a mutually satisfactory trade agreement with the United States.

Then it goes on to say:

The question which official Ottawa is now asking—and which cannot be answered until a draft treaty is submitted—is whether Mr. King can secure better terms than Mr. Bennett was able to elicit.

I ask hon. members, and my right hon. friend in particular, to listen to this:

Mr. BENNETT: I am not responsible for that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; but I will ask my right hon. friend whether what follows—he evidently knows what it is—

Mr. BENNETT: No, I do not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —is not a substantially correct statement of the situation as he knew it:

Under the late government the reciprocity negotiations with the United States blew up when President Roosevelt definitely and categorically declared his inability to extend any concessions on any terms to:

The codfishing and halibut fishing industry of the maritime provinces.

The potato growing industry of the maritime provinces.

The dairying industry of Ontario and Quebec.

The wheat growers of the prairie provinces.

And anything effective for the cattle raisers of the west.

Mr. Roosevelt was prepared to extend concessions to:

Canadian lumber.

Canadian alcoholic liquors.

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The haddock fishing industry of the maritimes to the extent of a limited quota arrangement which would extend but limited benefit to the fishermen.

The live stock breeders of the west upon a combined quota and price arrangement which would mean but little to the industry.

It is in comparison with these limited benefits, proffered to Mr. Bennett, that any arrangement negotiated with Mr. King will be judged.

I ask my right hon. friend if that is not pretty substantially the reason why negotiations were not concluded before he went out of office. I am inclined to think that it is. I would ask hon. members of the house, comparing what is reported here with what appears in the agreement that is now before the house for approval, whether there are not the following apparent additional concessions. Let me set them forth. Where I speak of imports, I mean United States imports from Canada by calendar years, based on figures of the United States Department of Commerce. First of all:

Halibut (fresh or frozen)

A 50 per cent reduction.

United States imports: 1929, \$676,000; 1934, \$261,000.

Potatoes

Seed potatoes, reduction on 750,000 bushels annually, from 75 cents per hundredweight to (December to February, inclusive), 60 cents per hundredweight; (March to November, inclusive), 45 cents per hundredweight.

United States imports: 1929, \$600,000; 1934, \$223,000.

Dairy Products

Cream, reduction on 1,500,000 gallons annually, from 56.6 cents per gallon to 35 cents per gallon.

United States imports: 1929, \$5,182,000; 1934, small.

Cheddar cheese, reduction from 7 cents per pound (minimum 35 per cent ad valorem) to 5 cents per pound (minimum 25 per cent ad valorem).

United States imports: 1929, \$1,818,000; 1934, \$140,000.

Wheat

Wheat unfit for human consumption, by-product feeds and mixed feeds, and screenings, 10 per cent ad valorem rate bound against increases.

United States imports: 1929, over \$8,372,000; 1934, \$6,564,000.

Hulled oats, unfit for human consumption, 50 per cent reduction.