

for a considerable time has there been a by-election held in Canada in which interest was more intense and more widespread. The voice of Brandon constituency was interpreted, whether correctly or incorrectly, as the voice of western Canada. It was taken as a representative western constituency—one hundred miles from east to west, fifty miles from north to south, and the home of a type of people whom any member may feel honoured to represent. As far as voting strength is concerned, it is fifty-seven per cent rural and forty-three per cent urban, so that that voice may be taken as being fairly representative.

I do not think any of my western colleagues will disagree with me when I say that the constituency which I have the honour to represent has long been regarded as the crowning constituency of the west in agricultural progress. Its summer and winter fairs have won outstanding favour all over Canada. In this respect a sense of modesty almost impels me to refrain from making mention of the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto. Manitoba exhibitors sent to the Royal a few weeks ago 169 head of live stock for exhibition. Some of these animals were shown in groups, thus reducing the number of single entries to 146. Of those 146 single entries Manitoba exhibitors carried off 134 cash prizes and 12 awards. Now here is where the modesty enters in. Of those 134 cash prizes that came to Manitoba almost fifty per cent were won by farmers in my own constituency.

I make these observations, Mr. Speaker, not from any narrow or parochial viewpoint but as an indication of the interest that is felt by the farmers of Manitoba and the west in the new trade agreements that will presently come before this parliament, and particularly as they relate to the live stock industry. Under these trade agreements the whole tariff structure between Canada and the United States has been revised, in some cases very drastically, and in such a way that I believe every home in Canada will be benefited. Canada has made tariff adjustments on 1,489 products of the United States, and has also removed the three per cent excise tax. This means that every consumer in Canada, whether residing in the east or the west, should be able to buy his supplies more cheaply, and hence in larger quantities. On the other side the United States has lowered her tariff walls very materially as applied to 400 Canadian products. These reductions apply in marked degree to the products of the farm and of the sea. Lower tariffs on what we buy, a readier market for what we sell: the Canadian producer, it seems to me, is benefited both in his going out and his coming in.

Experienced cattle dealers have told me that they have found a distinctly healthier tone in the cattle market ever since this agreement was announced. These men are convinced, after years of experience, that the tariff reductions and the increased quota admissible to the United States, now 225,000 head, will mean a very decided impetus to our live stock development. An alert business man with an analytical complex remarked to me a few days before I left for Ottawa that, having studied this agreement, he had come to the conclusion that it was the smartest—that is the word he used—piece of business legislation enacted in Canada since confederation.

There is another side, a very significant side, to the finer relationships established by this agreement. We have been living for months past under the shadow of an impending world tragedy. We knew not when the fatal hour might strike, but of one thing we felt assured, that we are still far removed from that ideal day portrayed by Robert Burns, when—

. . . man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that.

Under that dread shadow it is safe to say that we all became more aware of the fact that democracy was seriously threatened. We also became more aware of our own responsibility. It is a matter for profound thankfulness that after such dread suspense wiser and steadier counsels prevailed. Otherwise, instead of the king and queen coming here, as we hope they may, in time of peace, we might even now have been wading through the horrors of a world war that would have shaken civilization to its centre and possibly led to its utter annihilation.

I refer to this because the completion of trade agreements between three great democracies of the world undoubtedly constitutes a tremendous advance towards the preservation of world peace. The thought I have in mind was well expressed not long ago by the *New York Times*. I quote:

The mutual tariff concessions which have been agreed upon ought to have a beneficial effect on both American and British trade. But the real significance of the agreement goes far beyond this probable result. The treaty marks a closer union between the two most powerful democracies, achieved at a particularly decisive moment in the world's history. It increases the hope of more effective cooperation among all the democracies in defence of peace and order.

The same thought has been expressed in Toronto *Saturday Night*:

It is a definite move in a general drawing together of the great democracies for common