

had a policy to announce. The hon. minister answered that he had nothing definite so far. The minister's answer, sir, was not of a nature to encourage the farming class.

The hon. member for Lake St. John (Mr. Duguay) who spoke on April 13, stated that he was ready to make suggestions but that circumstances prevented him doing so because he expected the hon. Minister of Agriculture would bring down measures which would be very helpful to the farmers. In the meantime, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is conspicuous by his absence.

Assisting the farmers is an excellent way to relieve unemployment, because many of them crowd the cities when they can no more find their livelihood on the farm. After nine months of Conservative administration the government has not yet announced a program to assist agriculture, notwithstanding all the fine pledges given by Conservative speakers who, in Quebec, insisted that they would especially help the farming class and city labour.

The workman is willing to pay a reasonable price for farm products, for when the farmer has money he is able to purchase the manufacturer's goods. The worker's motto is "live and let live". The Conservative candidates travelled throughout Quebec, especially in the eastern townships, promising that if the Conservatives assumed office, butter imports would be prohibited. I wonder how the hon. members for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel), for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) and Compton (Mr. Gobeil), could to-day face their electors, after having promised that butter imports to this country would be prohibited? Under the Liberal regime Australia paid a duty of 1.70 cent per pound. Since the advent of the Conservative administration this duty was decreased to 1 cent, and the butter imports from Australia have been 836,000 pounds more than in 1930. I wonder whether those are the pledges or guarantees given to the electorate by the hon. members on the right.

According to the report brought down by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), there were 6,000,000 pounds of butter imported into Canada from August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931. As to New Zealand butter, it served its purpose in fooling the farmers, especially those of Quebec, it was stated that not a pound would enter Canada after the Conservatives assumed office, yet I find that more than 5,000,000 pounds were

imported into Canada since August 1, 1930. In 1930 we imported 408,000 pounds of butter from Australia, while in 1931, 1,244,000 pounds were imported. With these figures staring them in the face I wonder whether the hon. members on the right are fulfilling their pledges towards the electorate. It is but fair that the farmer should know what interest the government takes in his welfare.

In an answer given by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce to a question put by the hon. member for Megantic (Mr. Roberge), the following figures were given: butter imports to Canada in November, 1930, 117,600 pounds, while in March, 1931, it was 862,904, that is seven times more than in November, 1930. Well, sir, confronted with such facts, what are we to think of the Conservative members of Quebec who pledged themselves to protect the interests of the farmers?

I fail to see what the government has done for the farmers; I fail to see what it has accomplished on behalf of the worker. However, I realize that the increases in the tariff, enacted at the emergency session, aimed at favouring the manufacturer and capitalist instead of relieving unemployment and assisting the workman and farmer.

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): I wish, Mr. Speaker, to take a minute or two in this debate. I am one of those who believe that it is not everybody who is in a position either to give advice to or to lecture the farmer.

Mr. BENNETT: It was not the farmer, it was hon. members.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not profess to have any intimate knowledge of farming conditions, but I do rise to point out to the house and to my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) that we have heard from his lips to-night a very different story from what we heard less than a year ago. I do not know that I have ever heard a more vehement lecture to hon. members in this house than was delivered to-night by my right hon. friend concerning the matter of talking blue ruin and running down the credit of the country. I rise simply in order that he and the people may not forget some of the statements made by him within the last year with regard to the country whose credit he now desires to be upheld, concerning existing conditions as he described them throughout the country. These