

brought to the attention of the Commission was the fact that the farmers in the West, through their chief organization, the Grain Growers, were being solicited and urged to buy, and were being supplied with copies of a large catalogue offering farm machinery and equipment of every description for field, farm, and house, every single article of which was not made in Canada; and I may say that a copy of that large catalogue was submitted to the Commission and forms part of the record. May I express the view that if the gentlemen whom the honourable member announces himself as representing in this House were to purchase some of their machinery in Canada, that would materially aid the unemployment situation, which he seemed yesterday to think was of little or no consequence, but which I beg to assure him is a very serious matter in this country at this time. There was purchased outside of Canada almost seven million dollars' worth of ordinary farm implements in 1919; that is, exclusive of tractors. I would suggest that if seven million dollars' worth of additional business in the way of manufacturing farm implements had been carried on in Canada it would have materially relieved our unemployment situation. That is only one example among many that might be quoted.

My honourable friend, in referring to tariff details, which time will not permit me to discuss and which it would be inappropriate for me to deal with on this occasion anyway, deplored what he alleged to be the fact, that tariff rates generally on goods entering Canada were higher than the tariff rates upon goods entering the United States. I beg to assure my honourable friend that, after a very careful study of tariff matters extending over several months, I am absolutely convinced that quite the contrary is the case. It is to be noted that our tariff rates upon the articles in which my honourable friend and those who follow him but do not sit behind him are interested are probably the lowest on almost any of the articles that are generally in use. While it is true that the duty on a good many farm implements is something like 12½ per cent, yet upon all the farm implements of every description imported into Canada during the year 1919 the average duty paid was 4.55 per cent, and in that year over fourteen million dollars' worth of tractors were brought into Canada free. That, I respectfully submit, honourable gentlemen, is not an unduly severe burden upon our agricultural population.

May I illustrate the fact in another way? We have in Canada approximately one hundred million acres of land under cultivation. That is the equivalent of one million farms of one hundred acres each, and the fact that the total duty paid on agricultural implements imported into Canada during the year was less than a million dollars means that the duty on imported agricultural implements was less than one dollar per year per hundred acres—another demonstration, I think of the fact that our agricultural friends are not unduly burdened by taxation on their implements of production.

I had occasion to look at the other side of the picture, to see what other people were paying on their implements of production. I have in mind a single institution, a large institution, it is true, built in this country within the last few years, and I found that the duty paid on the equipment that went into that plant was a little over \$800,000, at the rate of about 27½ per cent.

I mention these matters, honourable gentlemen, in order to indicate by comparison that the agricultural interests of Canada have not been discriminated against, but rather the contrary, and I hope that any impression that they have been discriminated against will be removed by a careful study of the facts on the part of those interested.

The honourable member for Assiniboia (Hon. Mr. Turriff) expressed what I am sure was his personal view when he said that there was no necessity for any man in Canada to be out of employment because there was work for all. It has fallen to my lot, and it has not been an altogether pleasant task, to give special attention to this particular matter during the past two or three years. May I attempt in simple words to portray to you a few facts in connection with the question of employment and the effect of unemployment upon the whole industrial and national life? I state to you, honourable gentlemen, sincerely what I believe to be a fact, that unemployment and the fear of unemployment are the most prolific sources of industrial unrest in the world. Even though our artisans may to-day be employed and may have what they term a regular job, which they expect to continue to hold indefinitely, subject to good conduct and good service, there is still at the back of their heads all the time the fear that some unforeseen catastrophe, such as a financial reverse to their employer, or some national calamity,