

Mr. BALDWIN: Does my hon. friend know that in the country of Stanstead a beet sugar factory was built—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. gentleman is an old and respected member of this House and I am sure he has no desire to contravene the rules. The hon. member for East Lambton has given him permission to ask a question, but it must be a question and not a speech.

Mr. BALDWIN: The hon. member knows that—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question. It must be in the interrogative form.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I think I can anticipate what the hon. gentleman was going to say, that some years ago the sugar beet industry was developed in his part of the country and proved a failure. I do not know what caused it to be a failure, but if the hon. gentleman would come up into our part of the country he would find that our farmers are ready to put their money, or were ready a few years ago, into the further development of the sugar beet industry, knowing, as they do, that they have been producing sugar beets successfully for the last twenty-five years, and that the industry was developing by leaps and bounds until the present government—

Mr. BALDWIN: I buy Wallaceburg sugar.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I have no doubt the Wallaceburg sugar is good sugar, for it is largely home grown sugar. That merely goes to show what can be done in the way of developing our agricultural industries in this country if we will only get behind them and help.

Let us look for a moment at the value of this home market we talk so much about. For the year 1923 the figures are as follows:

	1923	
	Amount Exported	Amount Consumed in Canada
Beef..	22,000,000 lbs.	640,000,000 lbs.
Pork..	58,000,000 lbs.	740,000,000 lbs.
Lamb..	356,000 lbs.	78,000,000 lbs.
Butter..	13,000,000 lbs.	251,000,000 lbs.
Poultry..	569,000 lbs.	67,000,000 lbs.
Eggs..	2,900,000 doz.	230,000,000 doz.

I am firmly convinced that the interests of our farming communities would be greatly benefited if the products of the soil were given adequate protection.

Mr. YOUNG (Saskatoon): How would the hon. member protect the wheat farmer of western Canada along the lines he is suggesting in his whole speech?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): The hon. gentleman, I suppose, looks upon that as a very clever question. Surely he knows that we are assisting the western wheat farmer mightily in this parliament year after year. He knows just as surely as he is sitting there that the western farmer gets a low freight rate on his wheat crop that comes down here to compete with ours. Is that not helping the wheat farmer?

Mr. YOUNG (Saskatoon): Certainly, but at no loss to Canada.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): That wheat is carried down here practically at a loss.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): There is no question that our rates are very low as compared with the rates charged in the United States. In the United States the rate is nine cents a bushel more, as the hon. gentleman knows. I have just been telling the hon. gentleman how the older provinces have been trying to help develop that western country, but surely he would not expect that we should help the west in every conceivable way and spend out in the west all the profits that come to the people in the east. Surely a little bit of that can be spent in the older provinces. How many millions of dollars have been spent in these older provinces to assist agriculture as compared with what has been expended on the western plains? Hon. gentlemen know how the comparison stands.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We shall be very glad to have my hon. friend give us the comparison.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I am merely stating the fact, and the minister knows it full well.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I should be delighted to have the comparative figures.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Take cattle, for instance, they are shipped from Edmonton, say, into old Ontario at a very low rate.

Mr. DARKE: At a profitable rate for the railways.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): If the rate is profitable to the railways, there is no reason why Alberta coal should not be brought down into Ontario. Does the hon. gentleman know that a carload of cattle can be brought from the western plains down, say, to London, Ontario, and fed and watered half a dozen