

ing duty which remained in force for the season of 1927. Under this law the producers benefited and the consumers suffered no hardship. It was working out very satisfactorily when early in 1928 the government removed this protection by order in council. The question is: Why did they remove it? Simply because strong pressure was brought to bear from the free trade section of the Liberal party headed by the so-called consumers' league. I feel sure this particular body has not changed its views in regard to protection; at least we know it had not changed when the application of this industry was before the tariff board, because it opposed that application very strenuously. Nevertheless, the consumers' league has not raised a voice in protest during the present debate. What has happened? Has some kind of truce been declared or agreement entered into between this government and this group? Is it possible that the consumers' league has agreed to permit the government to grant these increases in tariff with the understanding that after the election they will be reconsidered and possibly removed? If this be the case, all I have to say is that the consumers' league is taking big chances, because I do not think the present government will ever have an opportunity again to remove the protection from this industry. The growers will do their part to see that there is returned a government which they can trust.

Relief to the poultry industry has not been given by the raising of the Canadian tariff on eggs in the shell. This tariff still remains the same: British preference, two cents; intermediate, two and a half cents and general tariff, three cents, but provision is made for what is termed a countervailing duty. That is:

Provided that, if any country imposes upon eggs in the shell produced in, and imported from, Canada rates of duty higher than are enumerated in this item, equivalent rates of duty shall be imposed upon such commodities entering Canada from such country.

This means that the tariff of a foreign country applies.

I might also mention another product to which this provision has been applied, and that is potatoes. Prior to the present budget the general tariff on potatoes was thirty-five cents per hundred pounds. That has been removed and potatoes appear on the Canadian tariff as free under the three rates, but the same countervailing duties have been applied. As I said, this is a tariff set by a foreign nation, or, as we might as well admit, the United States. It is a Washington-made and controlled tariff. I say "controlled" because it must be borne in mind that power is vested

in the president of the United States to raise any tariff by 50 per cent, or to lower any tariff by 50 per cent at any time. This power was exercised a year ago. On May 14 of last year the president of the United States exercised this right and raised the tariff 50 per cent on milk and cream. What the poultrymen of this country want is a Canadian-made and a Canadian-controlled tariff.

During the last four or five years we have hammered this into the government from this side of the house and demanded for this industry a protection of at least eight cents per dozen. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that this matter was brought forcibly to the attention of the house on March 17 last when under a motion to adjourn moved from this side of the house protection was urged for this industry. The opposition came from the Liberal ranks. On that occasion I drew to the attention of the government the unsatisfactory condition of the poultry industry. I pointed out that in 1928 fifty per cent of the total importations for that year were dumped on the Canadian market in one month, and that in 1929 seventy-five per cent of the total importations were dumped on the Canadian market in one month, that of March.

What has been the action of this government in the matter of this dumping? All hon. members of this house will remember that in January, 1927, a dumping duty was imposed on imported eggs. This was successful in checking the wholesale importation of eggs at low prices but allowed eggs to come in freely when the price rose above 45 cents a dozen, thus giving relief to the producer and working no hardship on the consumer. The operation of this dumping duty was withdrawn by this government by order in council on March 29, 1928, and we all know that prices at that time did not justify such action on the part of the government. The Conservative party have continually urged for better protection for this industry. On May 14, 1928, an hon. member from this side of the house introduced a resolution urging the restoration of the dumping duty, and a division was taken upon that motion on March 16. I would ask hon. members to turn to page 3081 of Hansard for that year, where they will find recorded the vote on that division, and they will see that every Liberal member of this house voted against the restoration of protection for this industry.

But on the eve of a general election this government brings down protection in the form of countervailing duties. I say to the poultrymen of this country: Consider the record of this government in dealing with the problems of your industry. Are you going to