

4, chapter 2 of the statutes of 1930, second session, is hereby pleased to authorize the Minister of National Revenue to fix the value for duty of refined granulated sugar, the value so fixed to be deemed to be the fair market value thereof, notwithstanding any other provisions of the Customs Act.

And now our friends opposite seem to try to dodge this issue because they find they are in a very tight fix. They find that they have injured the maritime provinces by this order in council, and on every occasion now they try to dodge the issue and say, "We put this impost on refined sugar, and therefore it did not affect the imports from Cuba." But I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that Cuba has been prepared to ship refined sugar to Canada. She found that she could not ship her sugar here all in the raw state, and so she established her own refineries and was perfectly willing to ship her sugar here, refined or raw. She told our good friend Mr. Macdonald that she was willing to trade with us if we gave her a fair deal, but this government in place of making some concessions to Cuba immediately put this regulation through. The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot), will put on record to-night, if he has time, the shipments of sugar before this regulation went into effect and the shipments that Canada received after, and he will be able to show that the shipments were reduced immediately after this regulation went into effect. Everyone knows this to be a fact.

To carry this matter a little further what do we find? It was discussed in the House of Commons; our good friend from Weyburn (Mr. Young) spoke on this question in the house on November 7, 1932, at page 978 of Hansard, and this exchange took place between him and the Prime Minister:

Mr. Bennett: That was covered by the treaty, and he could not change it. Surely the hon. gentleman knows that.

Mr. Young: Then what benefit was the beet grower going to get out of it? He was going to sell raw sugar.

Mr. Bennett: It kept Cuban sugar out.

I want my hon. friends over there to get that. Here is the statement of the Prime Minister of Canada, speaking on the floor of this house, and stating that the order in council which this government passed kept Cuban sugar out. What better authority do we want than that? What higher source could our farmers go to for this information?

Mr. STEWART (Lethbridge): Would you change it?

Mr. MacLEAN: I certainly would. Just give us a chance—we will have a chance in the near future—and we will change it and

[Mr. MacLean.]

change it pretty quick. And it won't hurt the refiners or beet growers either.

Mr. POULIOT: You cannot change the Prime Minister's speech.

Mr. MacLEAN: The situation is this. What has this government done instead of giving some assistance to the farmers of eastern Canada so far as their potato market is concerned? The Minister of Agriculture has just told us of the wonderful things that have been done under the empire agreements; but what is the condition of the potato grower to-day in connection with those agreements? Has the potato grower derived any benefit from them? There is a market over there for all potatoes from the European countries, but Canada was kept out of it. Why did they not get something out of those agreements for the benefit of the potato growers of the maritime provinces? Nothing doing. The poor potato grower of the east was never thought of when those agreements were going through, and yet our friends on the opposite side will laud the agreements to the skies, telling the people what wonderful benefits the farmers have got from them. I condemn this government for not having done something, under the empire agreements, for the advantage of the potato growers of eastern Canada. That is No. 1. No. 2 is this: I condemn the government for not having endeavoured to obtain a better trade arrangement with Cuba. I condemn them for having put that order in council through which prevented Cuban sugar from coming in. And No. 3 is this. Under the marketing act they have ruined the potato market so far as the growers of eastern Canada are concerned. What does the chairman of the board say? He denied the statement attributed to him, but in the Mail and Empire he is reported as having said in Toronto that the board kept out of Ontario and the city of Toronto no less than 700 cars of maritime potatoes this season.

An hon. MEMBER: Shame.

Mr. MacLEAN: Hon. members shout "Shame," and I say it is a shame. It is an absolute shame that a member of the board, paid by this government and supposed to play the game—

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The government does not pay the chairman.

Mr. MacLEAN: The farmers do and that is all the worse. The farmers are taxed two per cent on their potatoes to pay these gentlemen, and instead of playing the game fairly this gentleman was reported as making the