

they believe they can make money on the finishing. If the agriculturists are in favour of allowing our cattle in free, surely the consumers in the United States cannot possibly be opposed to their entry. I think we might in this way obtain reciprocity piecemeal. There is a demand in western Canada, as the minister knows—

That is the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell).

—for the entry of Wisconsin dairy cattle free, and I have often wondered whether he could not with some hope of success enter into negotiations with the powers that be at Washington and come to some agreement whereby they would allow our cattle to enter the United States free if we gave them some concession in return.

Now if the government can do anything towards getting reciprocity with the United States, I am sure the farmers will not vote against it as they did before. It was on account of the misrepresentations that were placed before the country at that time, the cry of annexation, waving the old flag, the navy, and other foolish statements, disseminated by the press and the moneyed interests among the manufacturers and the combines, that they were able to defeat reciprocity. If there is any talk of annexation at the present time, the Conservative party are to blame for it by defeating reciprocity, as that was the starting point of that cry.

The farmers in my section of the country are the best farmers in Canada. They are not begging or asking for something for nothing; but they are asking for a square deal, and that they are determined to have in some way. They are not going to be held up by the great combines of this country. As I said before, if they cannot get justice, there will be no farmers, and every one will have to raise his own potatoes. Why should a farmer work fifteen hours a day, and many of them for their board? I venture to say that our farmers are not as well off as they were in 1911, the year that reciprocity was defeated. The combines worked it well; the farmers listened to the high tariff cry at that time, and it has placed them in the unfortunate position in which they find themselves to-day. You will not catch them in the same trap again. The *Montreal Star* has been looked upon as a guide for the farmers of our country; but since the "whisper of death" and other similar statements appeared in that paper, they have lost interest in the paper, and it is high time they should because that paper is not the friend of the farmer, as he knows to-day. We in Quebec have a good farming country and the best governed province in the Dominion of Canada, and I think the other provinces are doing well by falling in line and copying our laws.

[Mr. Hunt.]

Now just a word about the tariff. We cannot get along without a tariff, but a tariff for revenue only. We have such a debt placed on this country that it is the only way we can pay off that debt. High tariff brings no results. It was said that if we reduced the tariff on the manufacture of farm machinery in 1924 it would ruin the manufacturers; but it has proven just the reverse and the year 1924 under the new tariff was the best year they have had for years. Machinery has been reduced and the manufacturers are now selling it in all parts of the world. It was selling at far too high a price in the past and that was the reason for their not selling more. Take for instance, a mowing machine that costs about \$30 to make, selling for \$150, a manure spreader, costing about \$65 or \$75 and selling for \$245, and this machine used only about two weeks in the year; a sowing machine that every farmer has to have, costing about \$18, selling for \$85 on time and \$79.20 for cash. I know of some young men starting on farms on the above prices, as that was what they had to pay, and it cost them about \$1,000 to start, when \$500 should have been sufficient. That is the kind of thing that is keeping our farmers back—too much difference between the cost price and the selling price. I know whereof I speak as I manufactured wagons, sleighs and other farm machinery for over twenty years, and a wagon which I sold for \$50 and \$60, and making a profit at that, is now selling at \$125 to \$160. There is no reason for such a difference in price. If it costs more to sell an article than it costs to make it, there is no common sense in selling. There are too many middlemen in the way.

I would strongly recommend that the government appoint a commission of experts on the tariff question, as there are many changes that, I think, could take place without hurting the manufacturers in any way. It is far from my intention to injure them, rather would I help them and help the country at the same time.

There is a large veneering plant in my section of the country, situated at the town of Scotstown. They are shipping their products to all parts of the world. They are asking no favours from the government; all they want is a fair deal and they are not getting it at the present time. They are shipping now to the United States, paying a duty of 20 per cent, while similar manufacturers on the other side of the line can ship into Canada without paying any duty. This is not fair to our manufacturers. What our people want is to have the discrimination removed