

support in cold formality, almost in silence, a preference resolution; if by their attitude they give British statesmen reason to believe, that the people of Canada have no interest in the British preference, I do not think we will get far. Let our statutes as well reflect the preference we look for, and let us ask for it and work for it in the interest of Canada and of the Empire as a whole. Let us look to Britain rather than to the south of us where we have always looked in vain, or where when there has been action it has not ultimately resulted well.

Encouragement should be given of every possible kind—and in every possible way to western agriculturalists toward perfecting a system of co-operative marketing. I would like to see such connection established between our western selling organizations and the great co-operative institutions of the Motherland as will help a preference to be established and trade between them developed. Then there would be an immense future for agriculture in Canada. I have always welcomed the efforts of western agriculture towards co-operative marketing. Indeed, I think the Wheat Board example given by the late administration had very much to do with the voluntary efforts of western agriculturists to-day. That example was set in the days when policies were carried through to success. Speaking to a concrete matter, I know of no reason why the Minister of Finance should deny to those efforts the meagre help of the money now in his hands, money which belongs to the farmers of the West—money contributed by them, which is not the money of the minister, money which is the property, strictly speaking, of those who sold the grain to the old Wheat Board. This money should be returned to them as their own property, as carefully and as accurately as may be possible. I know the minister's difficulties; I know it is impossible to give the money exactly to the men to whom it belongs; but because this is impossible is no reason why the closest approximation should not be made. The duty of the minister is so to divide the sum that it will reach the men to whom it belongs and give them every possible encouragement in the work upon which they are now engaged. These, along with the suggestions of a very practical character made by the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. LeSueur), are the efforts which should be made on behalf of agriculture at this time.

I do not think we are doing enough in the way of outside representation to advance the

sale of the farmer's products and I am sure we are not doing enough to secure to the farmer the advantage of the market of the Dominion which he has helped to build. Why, for example, should we, an agricultural country, be in the position of buying from the United States—that great industrial nation—\$81,000,000 worth of farm products, and selling them only \$51,000,000 worth?—These are imported in this quantity because our tariff is one-half to one-third of theirs, and the smaller figure is the extent of our export because they maintain a high duty against the products of our farms. Canadian farmers are absolutely entitled to a higher tariff against farm products from the south. Do not think I am arguing that this particularly is going to affect wheat; it will have an effect, as regards many and very important products of the farm. To secure better the home market of Canada would be of very great value to farmers, particularly in the central provinces of this Dominion.

We are asked: What has protection done? For four decades this country maintained resolutely a protective system—a tariff fashioned to the needs of Canada. Throughout those four decades we made solid and increasing progress, and we made it against great odds—against the handicap of a farther developed nation right along our side—a nation of our own tongue abounding in all those attractions that a spirited and diversified industry can supply, rich in every allurement that draws to itself the seeker of a home or the soldier of fortune.

Against this formidable rival with the like of which no other country ever had to contend we grew in stature and wealth. We multiplied our manufacturing production ten fold, we multiplied our mineral production seven-fold, we multiplied our agricultural production ten times. We opened up a Western Empire and spread a net work of transport from ocean to ocean; We laid the foundations and erected the girders of a big well balanced country where millions of virile people could live and multiply and make their home. At the end of that period such was our strength that we stood unbowed beneath the economic weight of a war participation undreamed of as within our power. True we experienced through this time, in common with every country and concurrently with our neighbours on this continent those variations of industrial expansion incident to every land, cycles of exhilaration and relapse round which the peoples of the world press forward their uneven march. But at no time in those forty years did we fail to improve our position and at no time could we be contrasted unfavourably