

Canadian market, they are able to produce on a comparable scale with their competitors and can put the goods on the market in Canada at the same price as in another land. Why, in respect even of implements, if he will read the official, the undeniably correct, statements of those who have manufactured them—I refer to that of Mr. Thomas Findlay in particular—he will find that, those countries which had those industries protected had enjoyed far lower prices for their implements to the consumer than those countries which had no tariff at all. This applied, not in individual countries alone, but everywhere, with the consequence, at least in some, that now they have erected a forty to fifty per cent tariff and are encouraging and actually succeeding in making the goods at home. They will thus arrive at a price comparable with that prevailing in those countries which have built up their industries under a protective system.

I will again illustrate my point. I do so with facts given to the government by those immediately concerned. I ask the government to correct me if any of the facts I relate are wrong. I give, by way of illustration, the glass industry as some time ago established in this Dominion. A factory was constructed during the years 1918, 1919 and 1920, at Hamilton, capable of producing some 20,000,000 square feet per annum, or about two-thirds of the consumption of Canada. In that industry some \$2,000,000 was invested. It went into operation. At the time the venture was launched there was in this country a protective duty which averaged approximately 18½ per cent, that is to say, 18½ per cent on the assumption that the Belgian franc was at par or nearly par. Three hundred employees were engaged in the work of producing glass; some 300 or more were likewise employed in the production of raw material, silica and the like, and some 69,000 tons of freight came to our railways chiefly in the carriage of raw material which, ordinarily speaking, volumes in freight about ten times what the finished product does. These were the immediate advantages to this Dominion. Over in Belgium the glass industry has reached its greatest development. There, the industries are connected by a mutuality, and they virtually decide what, in their own best interest, is the price that should be quoted to other countries. When our industry got under way, the Belgians reduced the price to Canada to 40 per cent discount; and, with the 40 per cent discount and the disadvantage of exchange, levelling our duty to a very small fraction, the Canadian industry

was crippled. Being denied the slightest assistance from this government, it was compelled to close its doors. Well, you say, we at least got the glass 40 per cent cheaper. Yes, we did, until the industry closed its doors; but when the industry was out of business, then the 40 per cent discount was abandoned and 17½ per cent premium was put on instead, and the people of Canada had to pay for the glass and 17½ per cent premium as well. In a word, we are paying virtually what the duty would have been had it been imposed by the government, and the whole of it charged to the Canadian consumer, and we have lost the industry and wiped out \$2,000,000 of investment.

Mr. CRERAR: When was the company started?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The building was completed, I understand, in 1920. I ask that these facts be impugned if in any degree they are wrong.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Did the industry to which my right hon. friend has referred not close its doors before this government came into office?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The submission made to the government stated that they closed their doors in May, 1923, after they had appealed in vain to this government to assist them with a duty. All the duty they asked was one-half cent per square foot up to 2½ cents, according to the standard, a duty which, ad valorem, would be—on the basis of only fifteen cents for the Belgian franc—18½ per cent, or about the duty which protects the industry in the United States. I wonder if hon. gentlemen feel that the refusal was wise. I wonder if they can read from this lesson just what would take place in respect of other industries if the same policy were followed. Even if the whole duty were added, to the price, it would amount to three dollars on a five thousand dollar house. This sum of three dollars, or say the half of it, or, perhaps, a quarter, or, perhaps, later on, none at all, which would be the addition to the price to the consumer in the case of glass—because we are at present paying the duty, only we are paying it to Belgium—decides in each single case whether a sum amounting to \$100 or \$200 stays in Canada or goes to swell the occupations and the population of another land.

The hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Hudson) came to the conclusion that we could not become a self contained country—he said no country could; In the absolute he is