

work, during the war when the Imperial government needed zinc, and needed it badly, the Trail smelter was able to furnish zinc at just about one-third of the price that those in control of the zinc supply of the world in New York were demanding from the Allies. I want to further emphasize the importance of the mining industry in this great province of British Columbia by pointing out that in the little city of Trail the smelter produces 10 per cent of the world's lead supply, and 7 per cent of the world's zinc supply. Now, I submit to the House that that is certainly a very important industry.

Next to mining we have the fruit-growing industry. I have been interested in listening to some of the difficulties and problems of our friends in the prairie provinces. I should like some of those hon. gentlemen to come to British Columbia. I will tell them a few of the things that they would see, and I will cite a few instances of what this government has done—not for the farmer, but to the farmer. We have in West Kootenay a class of settlers, than whom you could find no better in the whole Dominion. They have come from all parts of the British Empire; they have brought their household goods with them; they have brought their capital; they have purchased land and cleared it—and let me tell the House that if any hon. members have ever cleared an acre of British Columbia land they will have some conception of what it means. These settlers—and do not forget that very many of them are returned men, too—after having cleared their land and planted their trees have had to wait a few years for their first crop. Then fancy them loading up their wagons with apples and whatever other farm products they have been able to raise, and starting to town, probably ten or twenty miles along a mountain road, looking up the bank to the heavens and down to eternity. At the first settlement of any size they go into the local store with their fruit and produce, endeavouring to find a market. The local merchant tells them he is sorry, but he is stocked up and cannot do anything for them. And what do the poor fellows see? They see boxes of apples, cases of eggs, and packages of other produce piled from floor to ceiling, all labelled "Oregon" and "Washington." Then they go home, and you cannot wonder that they are discouraged and disconsolate.

I just want to tell the House what else this government has done to the farmer, and particularly to the fruit-grower. It is fifteen years since the interior of British Columbia became thoroughly interested in fruit-grow-

[Mr. Esling.]

ing. Along about 1916 those fruit-growers began to market their crops, and they found themselves confronted with the competition of surplus fruit from Oregon and Washington. The Conservative government then in power raised the duty on apples from 13 cents to 30 cents a box. That was some protection—it helped. By 1921 these orchards had all increased in size and their production was much heavier; likewise the orchards in Oregon and Washington—the United States apple growers had a great surplus crop to dispose of. When our British Columbia fruit entered the Canadian market it was met by the competition of this surplus crop from Oregon and Washington. So once more the Conservative government came to the rescue—as it does always—and provided additional protection in the shape of what is known as the anti-dumping clause, the penalty under which was equivalent, in the case of apples, to a duty of 40 cents a box. Therefore our apple growers had their specific duty of 30 cents a box, and also the extra protection of the dumping penalty, equivalent to 40 cents a box.

Then came the election of 1921, with 64 Progressives returned to this House. They said to this government: We want that dumping penalty removed; we are not concerned about British Columbia fruit. So the government removed the penalty, which left our fruit growers again at the mercy of the dumping of surplus fruit from Oregon and Washington. No sooner was that penalty removed than practically every Progressive member and a good many Liberals were bombarded with telegrams from British Columbia pointing out the danger which had resulted from the abolition of it. It was shown quite clearly that there had been removed the greatest protective measure which had ever been in force for the benefit of the farmer and the fruit grower. This government however said, "What can we do? It has been removed and we cannot put it back." Well, they decided to follow their usual custom and so they camouflaged the situation to the people of British Columbia. They thought that the people were easily fooled and that they would not know the difference, and so they said that they would provide a dumping penalty which might be applied in the discretion of the Minister of Customs. It was to be discretionary on his part, but the joke of it was that it never appeared necessary to the minister to exercise that discretion, for the dumping penalty has not been applied, except in one year, and as a pretence. It was not applied in 1925 or in 1924 or in 1922, but in