

against the United States. If the prices in the United States are so much higher than they are in Canada as to cause a flow of food products from this Dominion into the United States, how in the name of common sense are you to get relief by going to the United States and buying food products there at the high prices prevailing in that country? But, my right hon. friend may say: Let us throw down the bars altogether and open up our home market to all the nations of the world. Does he not realize the truth of what was expressed by Prof. Skelton, and what is expressed in more homely phrase in one of the United States journals which was attracted by certain utterances of my right hon. friend, that if we are going into the markets of the world to buy food products for the people of Canada, we shall meet Uncle Sam there, and the prices in the United States will, to a certain extent at least, control the situation? The markets of the world are governed by international conditions and demands.

Further, it has been pointed out by one of the foremost journals in the province of Ontario that the most obvious deduction from the speech of my right hon. friend in Hamilton would be this, that the only relief that could be brought to the people of Canada, if his theory is correct, would be to place an export duty on cattle, sheep, hogs and meats. I do not think my right hon. friend will be prepared to maintain a proposal of that kind.

He has also alleged that the high cost of living is due to trusts and combines. Well, if it is due to trusts and combines now, was it not due to trusts and combines during the fourteen years in which he saw it increase? If it was due to the causes which he suggests, why did he not apply some of those remedies which he has been putting forward to the people of this country but as to which he was absolutely silent when he rose to speak in this House? And, further, does he not think that the trusts and combines in the United States are more numerous and highly developed than in Canada, and does he not believe that if we threw down our tariff bars and exposed the home markets of every province in Canada to competition from the United States, the trusts and combines of the United States would be just as powerful in Canada and just as detrimental in Canada as they could be in the United States?

Just one thing more in that connection. I would like to point out to my right hon.

[Mr. Borden.]

friend that the difficulty is not wholly due to decreased production in Canada. Between 1901 and 1911 the population of Canada increased 34 per cent. The total production of milk increased 44 per cent. The export of dairy products decreased 11 per cent. The importation of dairy products increased 14 per cent and the total consumption increased 74 per cent. The per capita consumption in Canada during that period increased 30 per cent. Between 1900 and 1910 the production of eggs increased from 84,000,000 dozen to 143,000,000 dozen and their value increased from ten and a quarter million to twenty three and a half million dollars. During the same period the export of eggs decreased from 11,000,000 dozen to 92,000 dozen and the imports increased from 950,000 dozen to nearly two and a half million dozen. This indicates that the standard of living in Canada has increased, and the consumption in Canada, not only the actual but the per capita consumption, of a great many articles of food has very greatly increased in the meantime. What is the remedy? I say that the remedy is properly to be considered in this country and in this House, and the Government is giving it consideration. I say, in the first place, give every reasonable assistance and encouragement to maintain and increase the number of people on the land. I say, in the second place, assist the farmer with good roads, as we proposed in the Highways Bill against which the Opposition voted, and which was defeated by their friends in the Senate. Aid him with instruction in improved methods of production, as is proposed by the Agricultural Instruction Act. Thus increase the ratio of production to the labour and capital employed. Promote co-operation among the producers and the consumers and find more effective and cheaper methods of marketing. I do not say these are the only remedies that can be devised, but they are remedies that commend themselves strongly to me, and so far as is possible this Government will be prepared to act along those lines and to assist in every possible way in keeping the people upon the land, and in promoting co-operation between the producers and the consumers throughout Canada.

My right hon. friend's remedy is to abolish the protection now afforded the farmer in the home market and at the same time to subject him to a tariff protecting other industries. That seems to be a remarkable proposition. If my right hon. friend makes that proposal to