

are to be found anywhere in Canada. Last year, in the town of Forest, a co-operative society shipped 37,000 barrels of apples while other smaller co-operative societies shipped from 10,000 to 15,000 barrels, and individuals from 3,000 to 5,000 barrels. All varieties of fruit are grown in the district and there are also canning factories in and around that part of the country. I have the figures for the imports of fruit and vegetables during the past eight months, and it will surprise the House to know that from January 1 to August 1, 1925, there came into Canada 123,370 barrels of apples valued at \$759,000 upon which duty was paid to the amount of \$111,000. And I can go all down the list of peaches, pears, plums, strawberries and vegetables of various descriptions, showing the importations into Canada. For example, there came into this country in that period \$51,000 worth of tomatoes, besides the \$759,000 worth of apples I have already mentioned. The Minister of Agriculture of Ontario entered into an arrangement last year for the purchase of 25,000 barrels of apples which he had shipped out of Canada with the object of relieving the market to that extent. The motive was a worthy one, but what is the good of shipping out 25,000 barrels and allowing 123,000 barrels to enter the country in a period of eight months? Do hon. gentlemen think that the fruit growing industry of Canada is going to be benefited under such conditions? Is that a state of affairs which they are prepared to support? I am sure that if they lived in western Ontario they would recognize the need for protection to the fruit growers of Canada. All through western Ontario and in the southern part of the province, and in the province of British Columbia, in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as well, there are vast areas which could be given over to the growing of fruit, and instead of our importing into Canada hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of fruit we could, if we had a proper tariff, encourage the home industry and develop it to a considerable extent. But our fruit growers have no encouragement as things are, for they do not know the moment hon. gentlemen opposite will lower the tariff on these products or wipe it out altogether.

In the canning industry I have shown that enormous quantities of importations come from foreign countries into Canada to the very serious detriment of our business at home. We have millions of acres in Ontario that could be devoted entirely, if necessary, to the raising of crops for canning purposes. I might mention one particular industry in

[Mr. J. E. Armstrong.]

my town. We have there a canning factory which was put up and equipped at a cost of \$150,000 and that cannery is capable of producing at least 150,000 cases per annum, but the market has gradually dwindled until, during the past year, they turned out only 50,000 boxes of peas and corn. They spent \$50,000 in and around the town when they might just as well have spent \$150,000, as they could have done if we had shut out the enormous supplies of canned goods which came into Canada from the countries I have named. Take another industry in my riding: we have hundreds of acres given over to the growing of celery while there are thousands of acres not developed at all. These lands are of the same kind of soil and the conditions generally are the same. Last year we shipped out 250 carloads of celery from the district but the shippers found, when they tried to get into the United States market, that they were shut out by an embargo which has been in force against the celery growers of Canada during the past few years. The result was that they had to ship their product to the cold storage houses in Toronto and Montreal and dispose of it as best they could. If hon. gentlemen will read the telegrams which are received every week by the dairy branch of the Department of Agriculture they will see that hundreds of carloads of celery are coming into this country every year to the disadvantage of the home producers, who cannot get a particle of their product into the United States. And the same thing is true of all other industries which are trying to develop in Canada.

Mr. BALDWIN: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): Yes.

Mr. BALDWIN: About 1885—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BALDWIN: Does the hon. member know that a beet sugar factory was built in my county and that it was closed within two years of completion?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Do I understand that the hon. member for East Lambton allows a question?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Lambton): I have no objection to a simple question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member (Mr. Baldwin) may ask a question but he may not make a statement.