

I thought a great many others had reason to believe, that something would be done in the budget to deal with those countries which have a depreciated currency. This is a question which has been brought to the attention of the government so much and so often that I naturally hesitate to go over it again. I believe that if the government had dealt with those countries as they should have been dealt with, and placed their manufacturers on an equal footing with our own Canadian manufacturers, the woollen and textile men of Canada would be fairly well satisfied. The question of depreciated currency is going to be rather a serious one. Reading from the *Yorkshire Post*, which by the way is a Conservative paper, I find the following:

Not only have the British manufacturers felt the competition of the French woollen textile trade because of low prices through the depreciation of the French currency, but the manufacturers of Canada have suffered likewise.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that shows that even the textile manufacturers of Great Britain, who have perhaps one of the greatest organizations in the world to-day in that line of manufacture, are feeling the effects of the depreciated currency of other countries. If those men feel the effects of depreciated currency in England, what must the effect be in Canada? I would like the government to deal with this matter. I think it is a serious question; besides it is something that is not fair. We have the British preference with Great Britain. If we allow Great Britain, for instance, to compete in the markets with our Canadian manufacturers of textiles, with their depreciated currency and with the low wages which they pay in England, and allow those articles to come in here and drive our Canadian workmen and our Canadian manufacturers out of business, I think it is a serious question for Canada, and I know it is a serious matter for the constituency I represent. It is all very well to say that these men ought to be able to compete with the world. But there is this viewpoint—and it is the same in all industries—that these industries are established and, are here already, and it would be a hard proposition to say to these men, "We do not want you, we will drive you out of existence". I do not think the government would take that view; in fact, I know they would not. Therefore, I hope that nothing further will be done in the way of increasing the British preference in regard to our woollen industries, until the whole question is properly investigated and we understand the situation fully.

[Mr. W. Elliott.]

We have in the constituency which I represent a great many boot and shoe industries. We all know that these men are having a hard time financially. Many of them are in difficulties. I have a letter which I received from one of the manufacturers in South Waterloo, which is perhaps of interest and from which I will read a few extracts. The letter says:

So intense is competition amongst the 170 or more firms in Canada that no less than 25 shoe manufacturing concerns failed last year, and the casualty list since the war now exceeds 70.

Sometimes we are met with the statement that these men are profiteers, and that they are not operating their factories on an economical and business basis. Well, after we have presented all our arguments in this regard, the fact remains that these men are financially up against it. I do not think it is the intention of the government to say to these men, "We are going to still increase the British preference and make it harder for you to do business". I think that is the view-point we must consider; and in this industry, until we know the facts of the case until this question, as well as other questions, are investigated by a properly constituted commission appointed to inquire into them we should not make any changes in our customs tariff.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I sometimes think that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association are responsible for a lot of the troubles we have in Canada to-day. Some way or other the people of Canada—and I think with some degree of justification—have got it into their heads that the manufacturers have not been dealing fairly with them. I believe they have that idea in their minds, and whenever the Canadian public get an opportunity they are quite ready to swat the first head they come across. When we see the extreme demands of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, it only alienates support. If they would come before the people and government with a reasonable proposition, something that was in the interests of the whole of Canada, and not merely in their own interests, I know that the people would respond; and it would go a long way towards gaining sympathy for the manufacturers. Unfortunately, however, they have been following a policy that has more or less alienated support, and they are to blame very largely for a little of the unrest, suspicion and distrust in the minds of the Canadian public to-day.

There is another very important feature of this question which I think should not be lost sight of, and that is the investment which