

native products and industries. The large and small manufacturers of the country have to contend with many economic conditions which are almost intolerable on account of the competition of the German manufacturer, where they have cheaper labour, longer hours of work and depreciated currency. In that country they are not paying the heavy taxes which the manufacturer has to pay in this country. These impositions have become a nuisance and a burden on trade and commerce in Canada, and I do not know how long the present condition is going to continue. A letter was read in the House the other day in regard to this matter, telling us how factories were being closed and how the people were out of work in this country, while Germany was in a prosperous condition—many people in Canada in the breadline or having a hard struggle to keep home and family together. The other night in the House I exhibited some of these German articles which were sent here from Toronto, showing how impossible it was, owing to the present condition of the dumping clause, to compete with the foreign goods from Germany and the United States.

What does the government propose to do about it? A large number of men are going to the States. Many industries are closed and others are suffering from the lack of some provision which would protect them. I do plead with the minister, notwithstanding what he has said here to-day and what he stated the other day, to do something for the small manufacturers and the larger manufacturers in order to give them some safeguard, which they have not to-day as a result of the condition of the dumping clause at the present time. The dumping clause was a good Liberal doctrine a few years ago when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was actively in charge. He saw the condition many years ago and recognized the necessity of providing relief for the Canadian artisan and mechanic, and he did something for them. But to-day the flood-gates are open, and European goods of all kinds are being sent into Canada and I do not know where it is going to end. Take the shoe industry which has been so much referred to both in this House and outside. We have suffered very much on account of present conditions. Owing to mass production in European countries, shoes have been sold in Canada for a dollar and a half, when these same shoes could not be produced by Canadian workmen for less than two, three or four dollars. England is coming forward with a dumping clause. It may be an indirect way of

[Mr. Church.]

doing it by the Safeguarding of Industries Act, but they have to make some provision to safeguard the industries of England. The United States is doing the same thing. I appeal to the minister, because he is more in touch with the trade and commerce of the country than anybody else, to look into conditions and have some regard for the unanimous protests from the city from which I come and from all over Canada, and to take some practical action to prevent the dumping of European goods into Canada in such a wholesale manner which has the effect of closing up many industries in Canada,—causing unemployment and driving our citizens to join the exodus.

Mr. EVANS: I was wondering if the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Good) had received a proper answer to his question yet. I have reason to believe that the dumping clause should not be applied according to the original meaning of that act. I take it the dumping clause is not applied until goods are sold at five per cent less for export than they are sold in the country of origin.

Mr. ROBB: That is right.

Mr. EVANS: I have reason to believe the Dumping Act is applied according to the price which is fixed at the instigation of the Canadian manufacturers, instead of being governed by the price in the country of origin, and moreover goods which are on the free list also come under the Dumping Act, and dumping duty has been charged on goods which have been imported into this country when sold at the regular price in Great Britain. I should like to have some information regarding that. The question is whether, with the customs authorities already using the power that this provision sought to give them, it would still be used if we passed this paragraph.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): Would the minister give a statement in a general way as to what he considers the purpose of the dumping clause?

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend from Saskatoon (Mr. Evans) appears to have a fair knowledge of the position. It applies when the goods are sold at less than five per cent of the fair value in the country of origin. The five per cent however does not apply to free goods. That is the general purpose.

Mr. HOEY: It does not apply to natural products.

Mr. ROBB: If they are produced in Canada it applies.