

*The Address—Mr. Davies*

piled by that committee give the percentage of decrease in exports and imports between the two periods just mentioned:

|                        | Imports<br>per cent | Exports<br>per cent |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Germany.. . . .        | 66                  | 49                  |
| Austria.. . . .        | 37                  | 54                  |
| Spain.. . . .          | 62                  | 70                  |
| France.. . . .         | 51                  | 51                  |
| United Kingdom.. . . . | 39                  | 47                  |
| Hungary.. . . .        | 59                  | 70                  |
| Canada.. . . .         | 60                  | 49                  |
| United States.. . . .  | 58                  | 63                  |
| Poland.. . . .         | 63                  | 58                  |

It is apparent that while our imports have fallen off to a considerable extent our export trade puts us in a most favourable light.

The indications as to the trend of agricultural trade are indeed encouraging. We find that during the crop year ended August 31, 1932, Canada exported over 27,000,000 bushels of wheat more than in the crop year 1929-30, when hon. members opposite were in power, and when world restrictions were few as compared with to-day. We find that for the months of August and September of this year the clearings of wheat from Canada are 60 per cent higher than last year. Figures prepared by the Bureau of Statistics also show that during the first eight months of this year we exported 263,065 hundredweight of bacon and ham, an increase of over 500 per cent when compared with the same period last year. These figures are greatly in excess of those for 1930, when imports and exports were practically the same. The exports of fresh beef during the same period were 23,915 hundredweight, almost double the exports during the same period last year although not as much as during 1930. Our exports of butter amounted to 30,924 hundredweight, only half of the exports for last year, but still five times those for the same period in 1930. The exports of cheese for the same period this year amounted to 417,850 hundredweight, approximately a twenty-five per cent increase over the same period in both preceding years. Our exports of cattle declined by 24 per cent but, strange to say, the returns are only slightly lower than for the same period last year. Our exports of oats amounted to 9,284,867 bushels, or eight times greater than the exports during 1930. The exports of barley amounted to 7,483,974 bushels, nearly three times the exports of 1930. The exports of rye amounted to 7,548,862 bushels, nearly forty times those of 1930. The exports of tobacco during this period amounted to 9,006,082 pounds, more than double of what they were in 1930, and nearly double the figures for last year. Despite what some hon. members opposite say, this fact remains:

[Mr. Davies.]

Under the policy of the present government, Canada to-day is selling more agricultural products than she has for some years past.

Referring to that portion of the address dealing with monetary matters, it is to be regretted that the lateness of the world economic conference makes it necessary to defer for the present any action in this field. That the deliberations at this conference may have considerable influence upon what this house may do, needs no emphasis.

Perhaps one of the greatest problems facing the nations of the world to-day is the problem of the unprecedented low price level. This problem is closely allied to monetary matters. I believe it is generally conceded that the collapse of 1929 was primarily a financial collapse, primarily a collapse of the monetary system of the world, which would in itself seem to indicate its weakness, and the need for that conference.

There are those who consider the Canadian banking system as being one which is near to perfection. In the light of my present knowledge I cannot subscribe to that view, although a comparison of our system with the system in vogue in the great republic to the south of us would seem to indicate that we have much for which to be thankful. Figures which I received last June indicate that since the depression started over five thousand banks have failed in the United States with a loss to depositors of approximately \$5,500,000,000. No such calamity has occurred in Canada. This conclusion, therefore, I would draw, namely, that in so far as our present system gives depositors an extensive measure of security, it appears to be ample. But, it also seems to me, that in so far as it permits the furnishing of credit when credit is most needed, that is, to implement the system of distribution, it falls short. I look forward with a great deal of eagerness to the results of that world-wide economic conference and the discussion of that matter in due course in this house.

I would like to refer for a few minutes to the Imperial economic conference with particular reference to its importance to agriculture. While realizing full well that the greatest measure of prosperity for Canada must be founded upon world trade as well as empire trade, which deduction naturally follows from the fact that Canada is a leading trading nation in the world, I can only view the conference just concluded as being a very substantial step forward in the rehabilitation, not only of the trade of this country—and we know how prosperity is founded upon trade—but also in the rehabilitation of the trade of the world. While also realizing full well it should be the nations of the world which