

The Address—Mr. Edwards (Frontenac)

That resolution, I believe, was concurred in by the Dominion organization, so it may be taken as the considered view of the vegetable growers of the Dominion. They are vitally interested.

It may be asked: Why should we endeavour to encourage our basic industry of agriculture? I reply: Because of the immense amount of capital invested in it, and because of our climatic conditions, which make our cost of production greater than that of our competitors. In 1924 we imported \$45,000,000 worth of animals and animal products, and \$186,000,000 worth of vegetables and agricultural products. Of these two classes we imported \$113,000,000 worth from the United States alone, and I may add that \$55,500,000 worth paid no duty at all, while the tariff on the balance was low and in many cases did not afford any protection whatever to our producers. Now, our exports of animals and animal products and of vegetables and agricultural products show conclusively that there is no scarcity of these commodities in this country. We exported \$140,000,000 worth of animals and animal products, and \$430,000,000 worth of vegetables and agricultural products. I think, Sir, that when we take into consideration that our exports of these two classes of commodities totalled \$571,355,000, which is 57 per cent of all our exports, we must realize that our basic industry is deserving of every possible encouragement. I submit it is absolutely unfair that our producers should be forced to compete with similar products from other countries that have the advantage of mild climate and cheap labour.

The policy of the Liberal party, Mr. Speaker, during the last four years has resulted so far in driving out of Canada at least half a million Canadians. I am putting it low when I give that figure. This means a loss of home market to our farmers of at least 35,000,000 pounds of beef, 40,000,000 pounds of pork and 4,450,000 pounds of lamb and mutton, representing a total value of \$16,300,000. That is what our farmers have lost in the diminished demand for those commodities alone by so many of our people being obliged to seek a livelihood in the States. In butter, cheese, poultry and eggs it means a loss of \$13,500,000. That is, a loss of home market to our farmers by so many of our Canadians being forced to cross the line of at least \$30,000,000, at wholesale prices; I believe we might add at least another \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 if we take retail prices. Surely, Sir when we consider that the total value of our dairy products in 1924 was \$218,430,000, or \$70,000,000 less than

[Mr. J. W. Edwards.]

in 1920, we must realize that such a serious loss to our dairymen should have induced the government to tighten rather than loosen the restrictions against outside competition.

I have in my hand, Sir, a tabular statement showing by provinces the value of our dairy production and field crops for 1924, and with the permission of the House I should like to place it on Hansard, for I am sure it will be of interest to all hon. members:

	Value of Dairy Production	Value of all Field Crops
Prince Edward Island.. ..	\$ 3,073,212	\$ 11,990,400
Nova Scotia.. ..	8,979,274	16,785,800
New Brunswick	7,119,861	16,080,000
Quebec.. ..	65,925,135	139,359,000
Ontario.. ..	87,075,286	260,534,000
Manitoba.. ..	11,041,692	136,025,000
Saskatchewan.. ..	17,566,406	237,310,000
Alberta.. ..	12,584,065	159,759,700
British Columbia.. ..	5,065,701	17,197,000
	\$218,430,532	\$995,235,900

In four years, 1920 to 1924, the production of milk in the prairie provinces increased by over 260,000,000 pounds, while their production of creamery butter increased in the same period by 86 per cent and of factory cheese by 351 per cent. Is this worth encouraging? Will the Australian and New Zealand treaties encourage mixed farming in the west?

It will be noted that the province of Ontario is first in the value of field crops, \$260,535,000, and of dairy production, \$87,075,286. With these facts confronting me, Mr. Speaker I would not be doing my duty if I did not rise in my place and enter my strong protest against these treaties. Might I ask the government to consider this phase? We have about half as many cattle as they have in Australia and New Zealand, and we have about one sheep to their thirty. The government of Australia bonuses the Australian farmer \$2.40 for every carcass of beef exported. We cannot possibly produce cattle as cheaply as they can in Australia. I do not think there is a gentleman in this House who will dispute that statement. We cannot produce sheep as cheaply as they do, and by opening the doors of Canada to the meats from Australia and New Zealand, as we are doing by this half a cent a pound duty, I ask hon. gentlemen whether that will encourage our cattle and sheep men in the Dominion of Canada? In my judgment we are doing everything we possibly can do to discourage them. The same thing applies to poultry, fruits, and so forth. It is the principle of the thing that I object to.

I am very glad indeed to see by the statistics furnished by the government that dairying