

Kenora can get \$176,000 of business while a Liberal in a similar store gets only \$373, it is not a square deal; it is not what this parliament intended. I oppose the third reading of the bill.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): Before this bill is read the third time I wish again to bring to the attention of the government a matter of which I have already spoken on a number of occasions, and I take this last opportunity to discuss it again. Perhaps the minister in charge of the bill will remember that when it was in the resolution stage, just before the Speaker left the chair, I mentioned the matter of potatoes. To some it may seem a small thing, but it is very important to the people affected, and although I have already stated the situation two or three times, it seems necessary to repeat it.

Last fall I received communications from my people requesting the privilege of bringing in potatoes free of duty from North Dakota. The first report was that they could get them for ten cents a bushel; indeed I think one telegram said six cents. To my request the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) replied by a question; he asked me if I thought ten cents a bushel was fair market value. I received further communications; this time my people could get these potatoes for nothing. Again I approached the Minister of National Revenue, but he told me there were better ways of dealing with the situation than by creating sectional tariffs. When I mentioned the matter on the last occasion I wanted to know what better way the government had in view to provide for the wants of these people than that of allowing them to get the potatoes in free. I received no answer on that occasion. I had decided that it would be necessary to let the matter drop, but since I last spoke of it in the house I have received another communication, which I propose to read. My first impulse was to read this letter to the house immediately on receiving it. I felt however that courtesy demanded that I again approach the minister. I did so and have waited until this moment to receive an answer, but so far none has been forthcoming. The following is the letter I received:

Morden, Man.,
March 17, 1933.

Mr. J. L. Brown, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Brown,—

As I am the reeve of the municipality of Stanley now I am everlastingly asked why we cannot get potatoes from across the line as they are so cheap there. As I know, you have

tried your best last fall to get the duty removed and failed, but now comes the time when people want a few bushels for seed and we wonder if it would be any good to try again. Dr. Wiebe—

Doctor Wiebe is the local member in the Manitoba house.

Doctor Wiebe said he would try and get a resolution through the provincial house regarding this. People have gone through the winter without any potatoes, or nearly so. We got a fine lot of vegetables donated by a society of Birtle last fall and we distributed them as fairly as we could. The largest family with fourteen at the table did not get any more than three small bags of potatoes and this is all they had all winter.

Hoping that you will try again and that you may succeed, I am,

Yours very truly,
J. H. Martens.

As I said, my first impulse was to bring the matter up when we were in the committee stage on this bill. However, I delayed, and I wrote this letter on March 22nd to the Minister of National Revenue:

Dear Sir,—

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from the reeve of a Manitoba municipality. In view of the communication that has passed between us in regard to this matter, there is no need for me to enter into further details. My first impulse on receiving this letter was to immediately read it in the house, and, if my sole desire were to make political capital out of the situation, I assure you this would afford me a good opportunity, as there is nothing that this government has done or failed to do, that has aroused greater resentment among the people of Manitoba than has this particular matter.

I shall be glad to hear from you at the earliest possible moment that you have decided to grant the request of these people with reference to the tariff on potatoes. If you cannot do this, then I want to know what is the better way that you suggested in a former communication.

Having refused to allow these people to supply their own needs in a way that would have cost the government nothing, I feel that their case demands special treatment and that some provision should be made for supplying them with the seed for the coming year. I do not know what the price of potatoes will be in Dakota this spring but naturally they cannot expect to get them as cheap as they could have last fall.

I bring this matter again to the attention of the minister directly in charge of this bill and I urge on him that he do something to implement the promise—perhaps it was not a promise, so I will say suggestion—that there was a better way of dealing with this question than by granting sectional tariffs. It would not have been an unheard of proceeding had the request of these people been granted. On two different occasions the government of Canada allowed seed to come in