

What has this department done? On March 14, 1929, the then Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) said:

The Department of Trade and Commerce is not exercised over the sale of such commodities as wheat, because those commodities find their own markets; but we are interested in assisting the sale of manufactured products.

That statement is made by a member of a party who tell us that the Conservatives are the friends of the manufacturers and big interests while the Liberals are the friends of the poor down-trodden farmer. The hon. member went on to say, as appears on page 948 of Hansard of last year:

Without unduly flattering the officers of my department, I believe we have representing the Dominion throughout the world as intelligent and aggressive a group of trade commissioners as any country could wish to possess.

It was not the fault of his personnel that these markets disappeared. Speaking on the New Zealand trade treaty, he says at page 946:

Do we want to get \$15,000,000 worth of manufactured goods into New Zealand? If we do want to trade with New Zealand there is only one thing that New Zealand can sell us.

Those are the people who claimed to be the friends of the farmer, but how did they take care of them? On page 944 of Hansard the hon. member is reported as saying:

Providence provides opportunities for an industrious man to profit by the bounties provided.

Trade treaties were made for the betterment of the manufacturers and Canadian markets were given over to the farm products of other countries, while Providence took care of the poor farmer.

In the campaign literature used during the last elections in Saskatchewan it was stated that we had lost all our markets for wheat with the exception of one, the market in Great Britain, and that if the Dunning budget did not succeed in selling our wheat in that country then all was lost. That was the only remedy that the Liberal party could provide for our ills, and if that failed they were unable to provide anything else. The people of western Canada said that they would not take a chance on a party which had only one remedy left.

I have in my hand the Dominion report on the grain trade of Canada for the crop year ending July 31, 1926, wherein is listed the names and places to which we shipped grain. On page 146 appears a table showing the exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour from United States Atlantic seaboard ports, by countries of destination, during the crop year ended July, 1926, and this table shows

[Mr. Turnbull.]

that we shipped from United States seaboard ports to forty-six different countries in the world. If the campaign literature of the Liberal party told the truth, then within five years we have lost forty-five markets for our wheat. That is a wonderful record for any government which professes to be interested in the farmer. We made fifty-three trade treaties in nine years and lost forty-five markets in five years. Of course the statement that we had only one market left was exaggerated, as was most of the campaign literature; we had more markets than that. Canada's position to-day is not due to the lack of intelligence on the part of the trade commissioners but rather that their attention was directed towards manufactured goods. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) did not know what the situation was, because he is reported in the Regina Leader-Post of July 19, 1930, as follows:

Canada, in her effort to develop trade, had made certain treaties. "When the treaty was entered into with New Zealand, there was about as much thought of butter coming from New Zealand as there is of grain coming from Great Britain," Mr. King asserted.

The Department of Trade and Commerce negotiated a treaty which resulted in 50,000,000 pounds of butter coming into this country within one year, as well as considerable quantities in other years, without considering the possibility that that butter would come into this country.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Will the hon. member tell the house when the agreement to which he has referred was entered into with New Zealand, or whether there is such an agreement?

An hon. MEMBER: An order in council.

Mr. TURNBULL: By order in council of December, 1925, the advantages of the Australian treaty were extended to New Zealand, which is another instance of the Liberal lack of intelligence as to trade conditions.

No one regrets more than I do that conditions are not as they should be in western Canada, but these conditions did not arise from anything which has happened since July 28, 1930; they are the result of an economic policy which has existed for years. What would you think of a man who started a loaded toboggan down a hill and then blamed the fellow who came upon the scene when the toboggan had almost reached the bottom because he could not stop it before he hit the bottom? That is exactly the position of hon. gentlemen opposite with reference to the decrease in the price of our products.